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## Casco Bay Weekly : 27 February 1997

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FEBRUARY 27, 1997 ■ VOL IX, NO 9 ■ GREATER PORTLAND'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION ■ FREE

# Casco Bay Weekly

FEB 27, 1997

Not only isn't  
the end of the  
world as near  
as the  
naysayers  
claim, but  
there are  
strong  
indications  
life in  
Portland  
is actually  
getting better.  
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nobody wants  
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## Everything doesn't suck

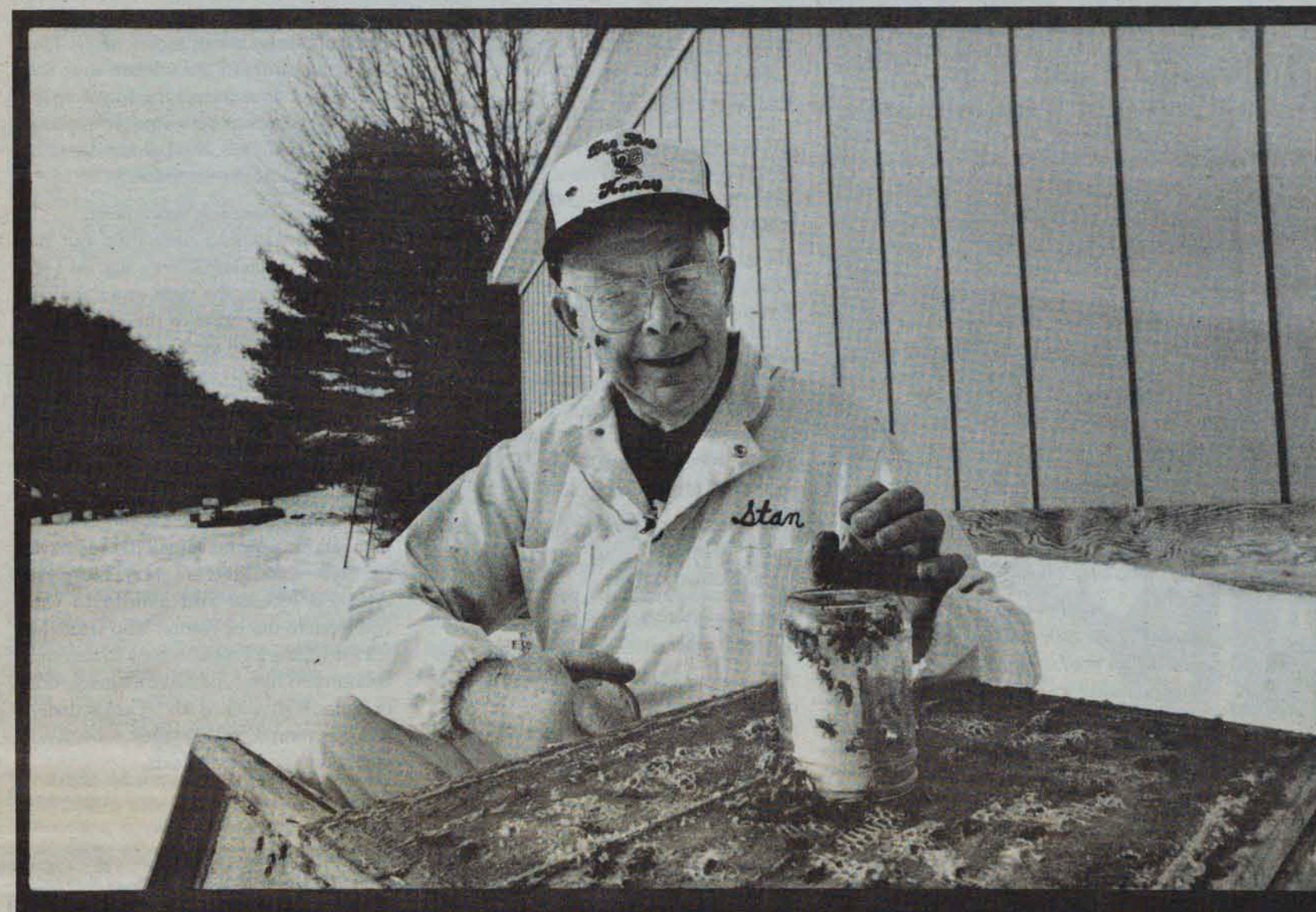
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**TALK** A CONVERSATION WITH  
**STANFORD BROWN**

**"They're hard workers. One bee has to fly 55,000 miles to make a pound of honey."**

Stanford Brown of Cumberland has been a beekeeper for nearly 40 years and has been practicing apitherapy — also known as bee-sting therapy — for a good number of those years. After learning about bee-sting therapy, Brown reduced the daily dose of 100 aspirin that he was taking for his rheumatoid arthritis and started to let his bees sting him. He thinks that apitherapy saved his health. Brown keeps 75 colonies in his backyard, each containing 60,000-100,000 bees.

**How do bee stings work?**

The bee stings keep the body's swelling down by creating a natural cortisone.

**What happens if you're allergic?**

We start real easy. I give you one bee sting, and if you don't have a reaction between six seconds and 1-1/2 hours, then you're not going to. Now, swelling and itch-

ing is normal. If your throat closes up and you're having trouble breathing, then you're allergic to the venom. Some people hyperventilate from fear. People seem to be awfully afraid of bees. I keep a bee-sting kit (antihistamine and epinephrine) right handy just in case.

**What illnesses can you treat with bee venom?**

The people I see have mostly some form of arthritis or multiple sclerosis. It's the inflammatory diseases that bee venom goes after.

**How many stings does someone get?**

One woman gets 28-30 bee stings every other day. Most get fewer than that. I try to make people independent after a while by sending them home with a jar of bees, a piece of honeycomb and a bit of paper towel roll — because the bees enjoy the darkness inside the tube.

First I teach them to remove the bee with long twee-

ers, put it on the hurting spot with the stinger down and just hold it there until the venom has gone in. When the bee loses its stinger it dies and you throw the bee away.

**I was surprised to learn that anyone had bees in Maine during the winter.**

Oh, sure. We get our bees from the South whenever we need them. These bees have to get out and have a cleansing flight every few weeks or they get dysentery or mites. It has to be at least 45 degrees for them to make this flight and it has to be dry. Last December and January it was damp and cold and they couldn't get out. This winter so far, so good.

**The bees all willingly come back to your yard?**

Sure they do. This is their home. When you go out, you go home, don't you? It's where you live.

Interview by Deb Dalfonso; photo by Toney Harbert

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Weekly****Best of  
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**G**et out your social calendars and circle July 12. That's the day ceremonies officially **opening the new Casco Bay Bridge** between Portland and South Portland will be held. The details of the festivities are not yet set, but will almost certainly include lots of dull speeches, followed by the as-yet-unselected Official First Person To Cross The Bridge doing so. The celebration will likely continue for 24 hours, making the day an excellent one on which to be out of town. Regular traffic gets to ride the new bridge starting July 13.

■ The Maine Sunday Telegram has **scratched the statewide spelling bee** from its datebook. The Telegram, which has sponsored the bee since before umlauts were invented, quietly decided last year to abandon the project. That left sagacious ... er, sagacious ... uh, smart school kids with no route to the national finals. But at the last minute, the Bangor Daily News agreed to sponsor the contest, and the spell-off will be held April 7 at a location yet to be determined.

■ Keep a few dates open for shows at the **State Theatre**. The concert hall, shuttered for six months, is closer to reopening since the nonprofit organization that was attempting to run it gave up the fight. State of the Arts announced on Feb. 21 that it was surrendering the keys to the Congress Street venue to owners Nick and Lola Kampf. The Kampfs now must decide how the theater will be managed in the future. Several music promoters expressed interest in operating the State as a for-profit venture, something that's already been tried and failed.

■ The schedule of container ships arriving in Portland could become heavier if the city gets a **\$10 million state bond issue**. Portland wants the bond package sent out to voters in November, after which the marine terminal on Commercial Street would be expanded. According to officials, container shipping through Portland has nearly doubled in the past six years, and a new crane and more land are needed to keep the facilities competitive. If the shipping area is expanded, it probably means the International Ferry Terminal will be moved to the Maine State Pier if Bath Iron Works abandons that site.

■ Correction: We'll never get a date with a Portland city councilor after accusing them last week of being part of the conspiracy of silence surrounding the settlement of a police brutality lawsuit. Contrary to our story, councilors were **not informed of the secret deal** to pay off a man allegedly beaten by the cops outside a Wharf Street club. Nor was the council asked to approve the financial transaction. Instead, the money came from a special administrative fund overseen by City Manager Bob Ganley, who probably isn't too fond of us either. **CBW**

## CITY



Deceptively quiet: The library at Reiche Community School. FILE PHOTO/SHOSHANNAH WHITE

### Cloak of silence

There's controversy over teacher misconduct at Reiche School, but nobody can talk about it

■ LAURA CONAWAY

According to a recent memo from union representatives sent to teachers at Reiche Community School in Portland, an educator there has been accused of improper classroom behavior. Because school department personnel matters, including disciplinary proceedings, are confidential, little information about the case is available, but Reiche's teachers have started wearing gold ribbons to protest both the allegations and the work environment at the West End elementary school.

"For the benefit of parents, students, and visitors, we would like to explain that we are wearing ribbons to ... support ... a staff member who has been accused of inappropriate actions in her classroom," wrote representatives from the Portland Education Association. "A letter has been placed in her personnel file to that effect. We will continue to show our support for her until the [teachers' union] has completed the grievance process and the teacher is satisfied that her professional reputation has been cleared." Further, the labor leaders explained that wearing gold ribbons

shows support "for each other in an environment that has become unpredictable and uncertain."

The memo, which is undated, encourages union members to explain the situation to anyone who asks. That advice doesn't appear to have had much effect. Teachers interviewed about the protest were tight-lipped. "I don't feel real comfortable talking to you about that right now," said one union official who teaches at Reiche. "I don't want to see my name in print. I walk a fine line between teachers, administration and the union, and I don't want anything making my job any harder than it already is."

The labor group's leadership has been equally cautious. Kathleen Casasa, a Deering High School teacher who heads the Portland union, refused to comment on the allegations that a Reiche teacher had behaved wrongly in her classroom. "Teachers deal with a lot of kids. A lot of things can be said. Not all of those have validity," Casasa said. "It wouldn't be any more than if one of your colleagues was accused of something, right or wrong. They may be wrongly accused."

Casasa said problems at Reiche

included teachers not clearly understanding what's expected of them and staff disagreeing with administrators over how to discipline students. She also said the stress of working in Portland's poorest elementary school has contributed to low morale among teachers there. According to her, the union held a conference in December with school department executives, Reiche administrators and the school's labor representatives. She said the parties asked a facilitator to help iron

**For now, the union won't say what teachers at Reiche might do should efforts to restore peace fail.**

out their differences. Since then, the union has held two schoolwide meetings in addition to ongoing, small group sessions. In March, Casasa said, the union plans to call a schoolwide meeting led by the facilitator. "There's clearly a commitment on everyone's part to try to go forward and start to work on some of these problems," she said.

Not all teachers at Reiche have joined the protest. One staff member there said she doubts whether the union actually wants to reach an agreement with the school's administration. The teacher, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said she thinks the dissenters want to drive Reiche's principal, Marguerite MacDonald, out of her job. "What really ticks me off is I think these union people have no intention of patching things up, so it's a complete waste of time," she said. She described MacDonald, who has been at the school three years, as a warm, friendly person, well liked by many in the West End neighborhood. The problem, she said, is that MacDonald wants changes at Reiche, particularly in the way students are treated. "A lot of people are afraid of change," she said. "She's trying to make a nurturing environment for kids, but there are a lot of people who want a real hard-liner, someone who'll just really crack down."

The teacher said she believes the accusations of misconduct may have some merit, and expressed frustration that the issue can't be brought before the public. "There are plenty of people in this building who do not support what the union is doing," the teacher said. "A lot of people don't know what happened, and it can't be talked about because it's supposed to be confidential."

At CBW's deadline, MacDonald had not returned phone calls seeking comment.

Jane Lee, who has three children

the allegations, but believes the situation is under control. "If this is happening, the children are being protected," Lee said. "I don't think the kids are in any immediate danger. Not at all. There's action in effect right now to protect the kids. MacDonald is taking that action."

Lee characterized the conflict as coming from a small group of teachers at the school. "Plenty of parents and a lot of teachers don't agree with [the union]," she said. "No parents have any issue with MacDonald's capability. Parents are uniformly supportive of her."

For now, the union won't say what teachers at Reiche might do should efforts to restore peace fail. "I don't think I could tell you what the next step would be," said Casasa. And unless teachers take some action on the job, such as refusing to perform extra duties like grading papers at night, school department officials don't have to give much information about the conflict. "As far as our office knows, there's no job action taking place," said Mike Roland, chairman of the Portland school committee. "There is a personnel matter, but there's no way we can say. We just can't talk about things like that. It's one of the few things I think we're justified in not sharing with the press."

#### Time Warner

### Promises, promises

Cable company quick to offer schools free Internet accounts, but slow to deliver

When Time Warner Cable offered free, high-speed Internet access to schools in Greater Portland last summer, many administrators happily accepted. Donna Green, who oversees computer operations for Portland schools, figured the cable modem connection — 10 times faster than any other hookup available — would allow students to do research on the World Wide Web and communicate through e-mail. Little did Green know that months later she'd still be dogging Time Warner to finish the work.

"I'd like a little bit of follow-up," she said, "and then I'll be happy." Green explained that seven facilities in Portland opted for Time Warner service, forfeiting a slower, state-regulated connection from Nynex. She said PATHS — Portland Art and Technology High School — still has no Internet access from Time Warner. Longfellow and Clifford elementaries are also out in the cold. The company has wired the city's two high schools and two of its middle schools for Web access, but hasn't come through with e-mail.

Why the delays? After Time Warner offered the sweetheart deal, the local subsidiary learned from national headquarters that Portland would be a test market for Road Runner, a residential version of cable modem service. The company plans to start selling the hookups this

spring. "Because we're so close to Road Runner, we don't want to spend a lot of time on the old service," said Jim Kersnowski, a Time Warner vice president. "We want to spend the time on Road Runner."

If Time Warner sets up e-mail for the Portland schools now, Kersnowski said, the company will have to do the job all over again when it switches to Road Runner. But despite the extra labor involved, he said, technicians have been working to fix individual computer bugs now preventing the company from giving e-mail to the schools. And Green said she's hired a local Internet company to prepare some computers for e-mail.

While none of that effort helps Portland schools without basic connections get any closer to Internet access, Green said Time Warner has promised to complete the necessary work for installing e-mail soon. If the cable company keeps its word, and if the work goes as scheduled, some schools could have e-mail by March — eight months after Time Warner first offered the deal.

LAURA CONAWAY

### weird

Tired of trendy restaurants and fad foods? Searching for a truly different dining atmosphere? Have a high tolerance for boredom?

If you answered yes to all three questions, you should head for one of the Cumberland County Commissioners' six public meetings. The commissioners are holding sessions in several area communities to discuss whether the county needs a charter, how much to spend on human services and whether to change the fiscal year.

Realizing that agenda would attract a crowd composed of policy wonks and people from other planets, the commissioners decided to induce a more representative sample of the county's population to attend by offering an unusual door prize. At each of the gatherings, there'll be a drawing for a free dinner for two at the Cumberland County Jail.

According to a press release, "Lucky winners will experience a tasty culinary treat served by County Commissioners."

Those willing to confront such a possibility should circle the following dates: March 6 at Cape Elizabeth Town Hall, March 20 at Westbrook City Hall Annex, March 26 at Naples Town Hall, April 9 at the Cumberland County Courthouse in Portland, April 22 at the Legion Hall in Yarmouth and April 23 at the Municipal Meeting Facility in Brunswick.

The more meetings you attend, the more chances you have to win.

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## DIAMON

"I mean it, honey, the world is being Fed. Exed to hell in a handcart. I really believe that anyone who's even thinking about having a child in this world is coldly considering an act of cruelty."

— line spoken by actor Nicholas Cage in the movie "The Rock"

**W**e interrupt our regularly scheduled program of unrelenting negativity to bring you the following special message:

Things ain't so bad.

Now on with the gloom-and-doom show:

"Little good economic news awaits Maine's working poor families" — headline in the *Lewiston Sun-Journal*, Feb. 12, 1997.

"New research from the University of Maine shows that drug use among Maine teenagers is widespread and increasing ..." — from an article in the *Portland Press Herald*, Feb. 13, 1997.

"How are things in Maine? In one word — worse." — Maine Supreme Court Chief Justice Daniel Wathen in a speech on family violence, Nov. 25, 1996.

"Maine's crime rate on the rise" — headline in the *Bangor Daily News*, April 30, 1996.

"Wherever I travel in Maine, the primary concern of the people is jobs. In the past, they were worried about jobs for their children and their grandchildren. Today, they are worried about their own jobs as well — some about getting jobs, others about keeping them." — U.S. Sen. Susan Collins in a speech to the Senate, Feb. 5, 1997.

"... a mediocre summer tourist season in Maine ..." — from an article in the *Maine Sunday Telegram*, Nov. 24, 1996.

"Our culture is sick." — Christian Civic League of Maine executive director Michael Heath in a column in the *Maine Sunday Telegram*, May 15, 1996.

The news media and state leaders have made it plain enough: The future, at best, is bleak. According to their interpretations of events, Greater Portland will, within a few short years, be reduced to a toxic wasteland populated by jobless perverts, drug-crazed criminals, power-mad politicians and pregnant teenagers. Even if the denizens of this hell want an education, there'll be nobody to teach them. There'll be nothing on TV but infomercials, nothing in the movie theaters but mindless violence and nothing at the clubs but death metal and bad folk singers (which won't be too different from the way it is now).

The only problem with those assessments is that they're not true. In reality, life in Greater Portland is pretty good and shows every indication of getting better. There'd be plenty of reason for optimism if most people didn't seem to think that optimism causes cancer.

# Everything doesn't suck

Not only isn't the end of the world

as near as the naysayers claim,

but there are strong indications life in

Portland is actually getting better.

How come nobody wants to hear that?



## We're happiest when miserable

It's almost as if folks were clinging to the dream of a lousier tomorrow. Statistics, anecdotal evidence and our own five senses ought to tell us that our surroundings are improving. Greater Portland is currently experiencing the benefits of a diverse economy, low unemployment and steady growth. The area has recovered all the jobs lost in the recession of the early 1990s, and created hundreds of new ones. Wages, nearly stagnant for several years, have begun to increase. Portland's property taxes haven't risen in five years, but the city has avoided serious cutbacks in services, and is now embarking on a modest expansion of some programs. The crime rate is among the lowest in the country for municipalities of this size. The air and water are cleaner than they were a decade ago. The downtown is reviving. The cultural scene is thriving. The quality and selection of local beer is unparalleled in recorded history.

So what's to complain about?

"I don't know what the statistics say," said Susie Schweppe, executive director of Maine Businesses for Social Responsibility, "but people are feeling very stressed about their personal economic situations ... They're worried if they'll have a job tomorrow."

"People who've been struggling for a long time are not reaping the benefits of the economic improvement," said state Rep. J. Elizabeth Mitchell of Portland. "Even though the economy is improving, it's not affecting everyone equally."

"We're heading in [a downhill] direction, for sure," said Louise Davis, a psychiatric nurse. "It may be that [environmental] trends have picked up enough speed that, even if everybody cooperated, it may still be too late for the planet."

"I think the sense of community is really breaking down," said Michael Rafkin, artistic director of the Mad Horse Theatre Company. "If there's one thing that concerns me about the American character right now, it's that I don't know if people have a long enough attention span to do what we have to do."

Tell that to the people who've already stopped reading this.

Interestingly, Schweppe, Mitchell, Davis and Rafkin all define themselves as optimists. The pessimists, as noted above, really paint it black.

Nor is this qualified optimism unusual. According to polls conducted by Strategic Marketing Services in Portland, the percentage of Mainers who think the state's economy is headed in the wrong direction grew from 24 percent in September 1996 to 34 percent in January 1997. The same poll showed the number of citizens who expect the economy to improve in 1997 declined, and the number who expect a downturn increased.

Charles Colgan, a University of Southern Maine public policy professor and former state economist, said much of the perception problem with the economy

is a result of comparing the current, slow, steady growth with the boom years of the 1980s. "People began to think what happened in 1988 was normal," Colgan said. "So people say the current economy is not as good. Actually, it's not too bad."

And it's likely to get better. The State Planning Office predicts a gradual increase in both the number of jobs and real income over the next five years. Experts at Gov. Angus King's economic summit in February went even further. They estimated that the percentage of working people earning a "livable" wage would grow from just over 80 percent in 1994 to 90 percent by 2005. Within a few years after that, they expect every full-time job in the state to pay enough to support a middle-class lifestyle. The Maine Economic Growth Council's most recent report projects, "Maine's national rank among the 50 states on per capita income will improve from 36th in 1994 to 25th by 2000." The report goes on to say, "[T]he state is not as poor, relative to other states, as it was in the early eighties.... Recently, Maine's growth in per capita income has been outpacing New England's growth."

While it's true that employment in Maine is growing more slowly than elsewhere in the Northeast, and the state's overall economic growth has trailed the region in five of the last six years, both those key indicators appear to be turning around. Other boring (which is to say, positive) statistics: New business starts are at their highest level since 1988. The number of business failures declined significantly in 1996. International exports increased 23 percent between 1994 and 1995. On-the-job injuries dropped 27 percent in the past five years, causing a similar decline in workers' comp rates.

Is anybody listening? Apparently not.

## Perception is reality

"There are more jobs today," conceded Bruce Logan, an employment specialist at the Preble Street Resource Center in Portland, which serves low-income and homeless people, "but they're not necessarily jobs that allow a person to do more than barely survive. Things may be getting better overall, but for a certain group of people, things are getting worse."

"The economy is better than it was in the early '90s," David Clough, state director of the National Federation of Independent Businesses, admitted, "but it has quite a ways to go. I don't assume the statistics are gospel. I don't reject the [negative] perceptions out of hand."

When the social service providers and the business community start agreeing on something, it's time to pay attention.

For Logan, the rosy economic figures are clouded by a sharp increase in the number of people being released into the community from mental health institutions, and by the still-unknown impact of welfare reform. "People running the [mental health and welfare] systems act as if they have answers," he

said. "They fool the public into thinking they do. Then after problems develop, they have to go through the process to figure out what went wrong. I don't think I'm being pessimistic. It's just an obvious fact. If things aren't done right, the situation will get worse."

Clough thinks the good news expressed in many economic statistics is skewed because much of the information is gathered from big companies. The Maine Chamber and Business Alliance, composed of the state's largest employers, asked its members how they rated the business climate in 1996. Twelve percent responded that it was very good, 48 percent checked good and just 6 percent thought it was poor. Clough's group, composed of small companies, conducted a similar poll last year. Only 1 percent rated the business climate excellent, 9 percent called it good and a whopping 50 percent gave it a grade of poor.

Clough attributes the big variation to the nature of the survey respondents. "The people who filled out the Maine

**It's almost as if folks were clinging desperately to the dream of a lousier tomorrow, even when statistics, anecdotal evidence and our own five senses ought to tell us that our immediate surroundings are improving.**

Chamber poll may be mid-level managers, vice-presidents, public relations directors, people who get a paycheck," he said. "The people who filled out our questionnaire are the people who sign the paychecks."

Another factor coloring attitudes toward the economy is the belief that there's a deepening divide between urban southern Maine and the rural north. "We're not making much progress in extending the relative prosperity [of the south] to other parts of the state," said former state planning director Dick Barringer. "The income disparity is growing."

That's not precisely the case. While it's true the south is growing faster than the rest of Maine, it's also true that most of the state is experiencing slow, steady growth. Unemployment declined in 15 of Maine's 16 counties in 1996 (the only exception was Franklin County, where joblessness edged up a tenth of a point). Every county but one has regained the jobs lost in the recession. (Aroostook County is still reeling from the Loring Air Force Base closing. Even so, unemployment in the County fell from 9.1 percent in 1995 to 8 percent in '96.) While much of the state's growth has been in Cumberland and York counties (jobless rates 2 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively), other areas of Maine have enjoyed recent mini-booms. Waldo County, riding on MBNA's expansion of its credit card processing business, has seen a sharp turnaround. What had been one of Maine's poorest areas saw unemployment fall a point and a half in the last year. Bangor (joblessness down a

full point) and Lewiston (down nearly a point) are both on an upswing. Waterville and Augusta (from 5.6 percent in 1995 to 4.6 percent in 1996) appear to have bounced back from a series of plant closings and layoffs.

"Other parts of Maine aren't doing badly," said Colgan. "It's just that the southern part is doing somewhat better."

But the economist warned that the belief that an economic gap exists could be a bigger problem than the size of the gap itself. "There's a real perception that northern Maine is getting screwed," he said. "Lots of people genuinely believe their misfortune is part of a conspiracy on the part of southern Maine. It isn't true, but that's still not a healthy situation."

Other potential economic problems include the impact of deregulating electric utilities, widening the Maine Turnpike and expanding the state's largest private employer, Bath Iron Works. Decisions on how to proceed with all of those are expected in 1997, and wrong choices could, in Colgan's opinion, significantly

hamper the economy. Right choices, of course, could speed up the improvement, but far be it from us to mention that.

## Crummy numbers

The prophets of doom from both the left and the right are quick to pounce on welfare as a key sign that the state is falling into abject poverty (the liberal view) or totalitarian socialism (the conservative view). In fact, there's no evidence either scenario is materializing.

"There's a wide gap between what you hear on right-wing radio shows and reality," said Reza Jalali of Portland's Ethnic Minority Coalition. "We don't have thousands of teen-age mothers on welfare. We just don't. The number of immigrant families on welfare is really low compared to what people imagine. There are only 50 to 75 families in all of southern Maine."

"The pessimism comes from the fact that Portland is a changing town," said planning board chairman Cyrus Hagge. "When the mentally ill are dumped on the streets, and there are suddenly more immigrants, it tends to make white people from the suburbs upset. Of course, if they were all white immigrants from Poland, they'd be telling us to pump more resources into helping them."

Impressions to the contrary, immigrants and mentally ill people are not swelling the welfare rolls. In fact, nobody is. The number of people in Maine receiving AFDC has dropped from 22,655 in 1993 to 18,027 in late 1996. Teen pregnancy, a major cause of people going on welfare, is also down. In 1991, there were 43.5 births for every 1,000

teenage girls in the state. In 1995 (the last year for which statistics are available), that figure dropped to just 33.5. As a result, the number of teenagers on welfare also took a nosedive. In 1991, 1,224 teens were receiving AFDC; by 1995, that had declined to 884.

This information has somehow failed to please advocates for the poor. "For every family living in poverty," wrote Assistant Senate Majority Leader Anne Rand of Portland in a *Maine Sunday Telegram* column, "there is a middle-class family on the edge: just one serious illness, accident, downsizing or divorce away from being pushed into poverty."

Rand's comment is a classic case of seeing the glass as half-empty. The statistics could as easily be interpreted as indicating that for every family newly arriving in the lower middle class, there's another just below the poverty line, needing a small push to make the leap to self-sufficiency.

"Poverty in Maine needs to be acknowledged and responded to in all its dimensions," announced the report of the state Commission to Study Poverty Among Working Parents, "with particular attention given to the rate at which child poverty is growing."

The commission claims one-third of Maine families are living in poverty, an assertion that appears to be based on 1992 figures. It doesn't seem to have occurred to the group to question whether using numbers gathered toward the end of a recession might be skewing the results. More recent data from state welfare officials indicates about one-fifth of Maine's population is poor, a figure that hasn't changed significantly since the recession ended.

The commission isn't the only group to find darkness amidst the light. The Maine Children's Alliance released a report in early February complaining that the number of kids in the state without health insurance is increasing. The group uses five-year averages of the percentage of uninsured children, which means its earliest figures, covering the boom years of the late 1980s, are compared to its most recent statistics, encompassing the final years of the recession. Not surprisingly, the results are negative: an increase of nearly 3 percent in uninsured youth.

Other numbers in the alliance's report indicate a different trend. The infant death rate has dropped sharply in Maine. In 1985, it was 8.9 per 1,000 live births; in 1994, it was 6.1. The percentage of kids immunized against childhood diseases in Maine increased to 84 percent in 1994, well above the national average of 75 percent. If, as the insurance numbers indicate, more families are unable to afford health care, how come more moms-to-be seem to be getting pre-natal care and more kids are getting shots? The report is strangely silent.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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## Everything doesn't suck

CONTINUED FROM  
 PREVIOUS PAGE

### Moral depravity

If people ever take a break from complaining about the economy and welfare, they use the time to gripe about the sad state of the social fabric. The popular wisdom indicates crime, drug abuse and suicide are all up. Depending on one's political persuasion, these affronts to humanity are the result of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to ban school prayer or the inevitable consequence of federal cutbacks in social spending. Neither conservatives nor liberals seem willing to admit that the devastating increase in these afflictions — like the perceived economic downturn — is mostly a myth.

"If we're not careful, we tend to say we have the same problems here as in Chicago," said Pastor J. Grant Swank of the Church of the Nazarene in Windham. "We [on the religious right] are fed lots of national material. It overwhelms us, and gets taken to heart. It just slips off the tongue."

"Prophets we are. We want to warn people that all these problems are coming here. A lot of it is prophetic warning."

Among the most common warnings is the one concerning the rising tide of crime. Yet the rate at which Mainers practiced illegal activities declined steadily from 1990 to 1994. It rose slightly in 1995, the last year for which complete statistics are available, primarily as a result of a sharp increase in the number of domestic violence cases reported to police. Rape, murder, arson and assault all showed significant decreases, but nobody seemed pleased.

Instead, advocates for various worthy causes were quick to claim the domestic violence numbers indicated an alarming trend toward more men beating up women. It is, of course, also possible the statistics showed that fewer women were willing to put up with being beaten up, but nobody seemed interested in pointing that out. Studies trying to pinpoint the reasons for the higher numbers have, so far, been inconclusive or contradictory, so an optimistic theory on the reason for the increase in domestic violence seems as good as a pessimistic one.

The worrywarts are also eager to point out what they call an underlying problem with the crime numbers. They say the figures conceal a frightening increase in the amount of juvenile crime, which rose about 10 percent between 1994 and 1995. As these young outlaws grow to maturity, they claim, they'll spark a flash-fire of criminality.

"These are young predators," Portland Police Deputy Chief Mark Dion told the *Portland Press Herald*. "These are not young kids making mistakes."

"Violent juvenile crime is different in nature and character than it was 10 years ago," Cumberland County District Attorney Stephanie Anderson told the newspaper.

Trouble is, there's no hard evidence of that. According to law enforcement officials, about 2 percent of juveniles in the Maine corrections system committed violent crimes. Among adult criminals, 4 percent are guilty of acts of violence. The juvenile figure doesn't appear to have changed much since 1990. While alarmists are fond of citing the danger of the so-called Super Predator, an absolutely amoral juvenile bent on wrecking havoc on society, there's little sign of that bad boy in this state. Each year, an average of less than one of the state's 27 murders will be committed by a juvenile. Fewer than 15 of 300 rapes will be the act of someone under 18. Reports of increasing gang violence in Portland are based on selected anecdotal evidence. "We've always had gangs in Portland," said planning board chairman Hagge. "It's no worse than before."

It might even be better. If police decided to use a different selection process, they might reach the conclusion that, however many gang members there are in the city, they spend most of their time doing nothing more predatory than tagging walls.

While it's true that arrests of youths have increased by 10 percent in the last year, that represents little more than 1,000 additional cases statewide, many of which deal with trivial matters. Maine's crime rate for kids — about 7,500 arrests per 100,000 young people — is still a fraction of the 9,500 arrests per 100,000 that's the national average. The recent increase may well be one of Pastor Swank's prophetic warnings, in which case the state might consider investing in its ineffectual juvenile justice system, which everyone from young criminals to old judges has termed a bureaucratic nightmare. An overhaul in that area would probably correct the perception there's a crisis among kiddie criminals.

If not crime, wails the pessimist, what about drugs? Surely the evidence points to a horrible epidemic of chemical abuse by young people. After all, the Maine media carried reports in early February about a University of Maine study showing dramatic increases in drug use among school kids. According to that survey, 53 percent of high school seniors had tried marijuana at least once.

What the media forgot to mention is that figure represents a decline in experimentation with pot.

A similar UMaine poll in 1995 found 60 percent of seniors had taken a toké. Overall, the study revealed little change

in drug use by kids, so the pot numbers should have been cause for celebration.

What may be delaying the party is the memory of a 1995 *Portland Press Herald* series, which announced that the teen suicide rate in Maine was 20 percent higher than the national average. Critics of the report pointed out that this claim was based on tiny samples that tended to skew the results. For instance, if in 1993, there'd been nine suicides among 15-to-19-year-olds instead of the 10 reported, the state's suicide rate would have been well below the national average, instead of a fraction of a percent above it.

Since 1993 (the last year in the newspaper study), the situation seems to have improved. The Maine Children's Alliance reported that 8 percent of Maine students said they attempted suicide in 1995, compared to 8.7 percent nationally. Suicide remains a serious matter, but no more so here than elsewhere.

### School daze

If there's one area in which the crepehangers are absolutely certain the situation has deteriorated into disaster, it's education. Hardly a week passes without some state or national group issuing a report on the crisis in our schools. According to polls, the public is convinced the system is turning out angry, illiterate, uncultured slackers, fit only to serve as extras in a film version of "Escape From Portland."

"Maybe it's more interesting to talk about that than to discuss the reality," said Michael McCarthy, principal of King Middle School in Portland. "The further removed someone is from the classroom, the worse things look to them. Kids and teachers see the achievement. Parents may be a little less aware of it. Others see none at all."

At King, a school that serves the most culturally diverse population in the state, as well as one of Maine's poorest neighborhoods, test scores are high, parental involvement in school activities is strong and vandalism is almost nonexistent. "I feel very positive about the direction I see kids in our school going," said McCarthy. "I probably wouldn't have said that 10 years ago."

There's more than anecdotal evidence to back up McCarthy's optimism. Statewide test-scores have reversed their decline, and started back up. The state's drop-out rate is just 2.9 percent, second best in the nation and far below the national average of more than 9 percent. Over 86 percent of the state's population has at least a high school degree, up from 69 percent in 1980. Nearly 22 percent have a bachelor's degree, an increase of almost 10 points since 1990. In January, *Education Week*, a Washington-based publication, cited Maine for having the most successful elementary-level reading program in the country. The newsletter rated the state's math programs the fourth best in the nation.

Not everything in the report was positive. The state spends too much on bureaucracy and not enough on students.

The quality of teaching got a C, in part because Maine has a high percentage of instructors teaching in areas in which they do not have a college degree. And although math scores were high compared to other states, that's partly a reflection of poor performance nationwide. More than seven out of 10 eighth-graders were rated as less than proficient at numbers. That ought to give the faultfinders a little red meat.

### Eco-disaster

But what do education, crime rates or jobless figures matter when the environment is decaying at an alarming rate? The globe is warming, ozone holes are growing, the rain forests are vanishing, the oceans are full of crap and the blue-tongued mango vole is nearly extinct. We're all, pessimist and optimist alike, going to suffer and die as a result of our wanton ways with Mother Earth.

"If you go back to the ancient Greeks, everybody was saying the same thing," said John Demos, Maine director of the Sierra Club. "Throughout human history, everybody always thinks we're on the verge of complete destruction."

In fact, the local environment is in better shape today than it was 10 years ago. In Greater Portland there's less locally produced ozone, thanks to state

**There'd be plenty of reason for optimism if most people didn't seem to think that optimism causes cancer.**

air quality standards far stricter than federal controls. Environmental groups and the paper industry are no longer talking about whether to limit the amount of dioxin, but rather debating the best way to achieve zero tolerance. Statewide, the amount of toxins from all sources released into the environment has been cut by 44 percent in the last six years. As much damage as last fall's oil spill did in Portland Harbor, it would have been far worse just five years ago, when virtually none of the equipment used to contain it was available in the area. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is finally taking the problems at the Maine Yankee nuclear plant seriously. The fishing industry is finally taking the decline of groundfish stocks seriously. And nobody is taking the blue-tongued mango vole seriously, because novelist Carl Hiaasen made it up.

Which is often what the doomsday squads from both sides do with their predictions of eco-apocalypse or economic-Armageddon. To hear the green faction tell it, expanding the Maine Turnpike is second on the scale of potential disasters only to melting the polar ice caps. Adding two extra lanes to an existing 40-mile road in the most heavily populated part of the state will destroy the way life should be.

Likewise, industry extremists become totally wacked out when told to stop small particle emissions from their smokestacks. As they have with every advance in mandating clean air and water, the factory owners issue dire predictions of their imminent demise from over-regulation.

You don't have to be an optimist to ignore these fairy tales. You just have to have sense enough not to fall for any shaggy vole stories.

### Perfect is the enemy of good

Things aren't perfect. They likely never will be. It's therefore futile to complain about the lack of perfection. Those who rail too much against the ills of the modern world should be sentenced to the Middle Ages, when most of civilization was being ravaged by plague, religious wars and marauding bands of outlaws whose behavior exceeded even Portland Police Chief Mike Chitwood's talent for hyperbole. Nor was life a whole lot more pleasant in uncivilized areas, where human sacrifice, rape and ritual mutilation were all part of a normal day's activities.

Things are nicer now. Nicer than they were 100 years ago, when women couldn't vote, politicians were almost universally corrupt (and much more likely to have gotten away with it) and a large percentage of the food supply was toxic. Nicer than they were 30 years ago, when Ozzie and Harriet ruled the earth, black people rode the back of the bus and Back Cove was an open sewer. Nicer than they were 10 years ago, when there was AIDS, but no protease inhibitors; computers, but no inexpensive ones; and professional baseball, but not in Portland. Nicer than they were last year, when Pat Buchanan was still running for president, war still raged in Bosnia and Theodore Kaczynski still had access to the U.S. Postal Service.

"This seems to be a good year for the arts," conceded Mad Horse's Rafkin. "Theater seems very healthy in Portland this year."

"Businesses are really beginning to take the lead in ... recognizing the needs of low-income workers," admitted Schweppe, of the socially responsible business group. "They're looking into issues like high turnover rates, health care and child care."

"I see [the Legislature] moving in a good direction," confessed Rep. Mitchell. "The general public may not know it, but we're trying."

"Even the bad things are better than they used to be," according to P.J. O'Rourke in his book "All the Trouble in the World." "Bad music, for instance, has gotten much briefer. Wagner's Ring Cycle takes four days to perform while 'Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm' by the Crash Test Dummies lasts little more than three minutes."

That makes me feel a lot better.

Al Diamon is CBW's political columnist. He swears his favorite book is "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm."

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# comment

## Why risk it?

Why would *CBW* want to print a cartoon that offended some readers so badly they complained to one of our major distribution outlets, Shop 'n Save, and got thousands of our papers pulled off the racks for a week?

Why risk it?

That was the question Frank Sherwood of Scarborough asked when interviewed by a *CBW* reporter for a story we ran about the brouhaha, "Dirty pictures" (2.20.97). Sherwood couldn't figure out why we printed Steve Kurth's cartoon "Sex machine" (2.13.97), which Sherwood characterized as pornography. Not only did our papers get pulled, but we made a bad impression on many readers. Some, Sherwood suggested, would never look at *CBW* again. So he asked, "Why risk it?"



Here's why:

The assignment we gave to the four cartoonists featured in the issue of 2.13.97 ("All comics, all the time") was to create a strip with a relationship-based theme. They were told to keep in mind the paper's audience, but to allow themselves complete artistic license. The freedom to express oneself without censorship in a popular media venue is rare, and here at *CBW*, we believe in it fiercely.

Each artist, not surprisingly, came up with a completely different vision. Some were heartwarming. Kurth's tale of a group of acquaintances who shared a sexually transmitted disease was not.

Was it pornography? No, by any measure of the word. It was not meant to appeal to a reader's so-called prurient interest. It was not intended to arouse. It was a personal expression of a painful reality in an artistic form, and while it included nudity and profanity, it clearly had artistic content — whether one thought it was good or not.

Was it offensive? To some people, it was. To others, it was not.

Should it have been published in a general interest newspaper? Our editorial staff decided it was worthy of publication.

The reaction to Kurth's cartoon made me reflect once again on what I myself consider offensive. The thing that offends me the most is the use, for entertainment purposes, of real-life TV footage depicting people's death or injury. One recent Saturday afternoon, I ran across such footage on the A&E network — police videotape of a double-murder scene. The camera lingered on the sprawled, bloody bodies, and before I could avert my gaze and change the channel I saw more than I ever wanted to.

Last Sunday night, it happened again. I was watching "The Simpsons" on Fox and a commercial came on for a show called "Real-Life Disasters 5." Shots of people being killed by explosions, careening vehicles and collapsing buildings raced across the screen. Once again, I looked away, but too late. The images remain in my mind as I write this.

Some people, evidently, are not offended by such programming. While it seems to me that only prurient interest would make you want to watch other people die violently, the executives at A&E and Fox have decided to market this footage as entertainment for the viewers who want to see it.

I believe that is their right. We live in a society where the tawdry and the sublime are constantly jostling each other in the media marketplace. Some people find value in media products that repel others. We can all look away, and we should not shrink from our responsibility to make the choice to look away.

Part of our mission here at *CBW* is to provide a free and open forum for artists, writers and citizens to discuss politics, religion, sex — anything worthy of discussion. When we offend, we listen to those who are offended with respect and incorporate their opinions into our future decision-making.

But we remain tenaciously committed to the idea that it is our place as an alternative newspaper to push the limits, to provide a forum for unpopular and controversial ideas. We believe such a forum is a necessary element of a democratic society, and we fear if we don't have the courage to provide it, nobody else will.

That's why we risked it.

SARAH GOODYEAR

**WINNERS**  
MERCY HOSPITAL  
LINCOLNVILLE  
JOSEPH  
BERNATCHE  
BOB ELLIOT  
YOUTHBUILD

**LOSERS**  
MAINE YANKEE  
DISCOVERY HOUSE  
NUDE DANCERS  
NORMAN  
DICKINSON  
WCY

**JURY'S OUT**  
STATE THEATRE  
GRANNY KILLAMS  
MORGANFIELD'S  
EASTERN PROM  
DOGS  
ANGUS KING'S  
SECOND TERM

## LETTERS



Casco Bay Weekly welcomes your letters. Please keep your thoughts to less than 300 words (longer letters may be edited for space reasons), and include your address and daytime phone number. Letters, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or via e-mail: editor@cbw.maine.com.

### Give love a chance

We live in a culture that encourages independence and rugged individualism. While it makes for enterprising spirit and great achievements, it also often segregates and alienates in the process. I would argue, through browsing Rick MacPherson's column in *CBW* ("Ecce Homo," 2.13.97), that his forked tongue is symptomatic of a culturally anemic condition of far broader ramifications.

Sexual identity, or orientation, is but one of an endless stream of categories that divide and conquer the American community. Race, class, education, income, spiritual preference and gender (in and of itself) are among a few others. We further subdivide into camps under each single heading, becoming a fragmented population. I think it is dangerous when we neglect to interrelate them. Now that we've all revealed our compartmentalized wounds, perhaps we should look into the commonality of them that might unite us. Pain is pain, suffering is suffering.

What I heard in between the lines of your column is a deep inner sense of sadness in feeling homeless. One in which I share. What do we share as members of a

larger body, or congregation, that feeds our souls? What is the quality of our national blood? What yokes our souls connecting with each other as well as our bodies? Our hearts as well as our minds? Personally, it is important for all of us that relationship survives. It is something to celebrate. It builds community. The divorce rate should concern us all. In what ways are we living that make relationships difficult?

The one great bodily reaction I had to your Valentine's Day piece was how much it screamed of the loss of a sense of communal spirit or soul. Truly an alienated state. We all walk on that lonely street to some extent. It is impossible not to in our present culture. Some of us are more raw than others. Perhaps the more raw, the more real. To me, the question for all of us becomes "where do I want to go with my pain in this regard?"

Do you really want to beat Valentine's Day into the ground? Love? One of the few times of the year that loving expression is universally sanctioned and trumpeted? In our world full of divisions, it can be a great opportunity to celebrate loving relatedness, or at least our desire for it. Might you embrace its ideal, rather than the commercial component? How would it feel to send a Valentine to a single friend you dearly love, letting him know how much his friendship means to you? Go to the florist and buy yourself a huge colorful flower arrangement. Nurture the love that lives in your own heart.

Valentine's Day need not be "abysmal." Sex without love can be in my experience. Been there, done that. Sex is not love, and you enter into a discussion of loveless sex, defending it against a love that can unite

and create a bond, even foster growth. You scream about how your culture has alienated you, and then you defend the right to stay that way. It perpetuates the division, the wound. As far as the plight of gay youth is concerned, what does your column feed them?

Listen, I've swam in the same shit of jaded attitude as you. I know I'll do it again, but hopefully less and less. That pool of shit can just as easily be a fresh spring with a practiced change of attitude.

I think marriage (symbolic union) is a very sound concept. A testament to love. I hope I find the courage to partake of it someday. I wrestle with two sides of the same coin. There's the chaos of pain, fear and uncertainty on one side, and Eros, love and courage on the other. Being able to see the whole empowers me with choice and responsibility. A simple change of attitude or perception on my part might flip me from a position of tails down to heads up (forgive me). I'll steal the words of a poet, Jon Anderson: "Give it all the love you have, never be afraid to show your heart."

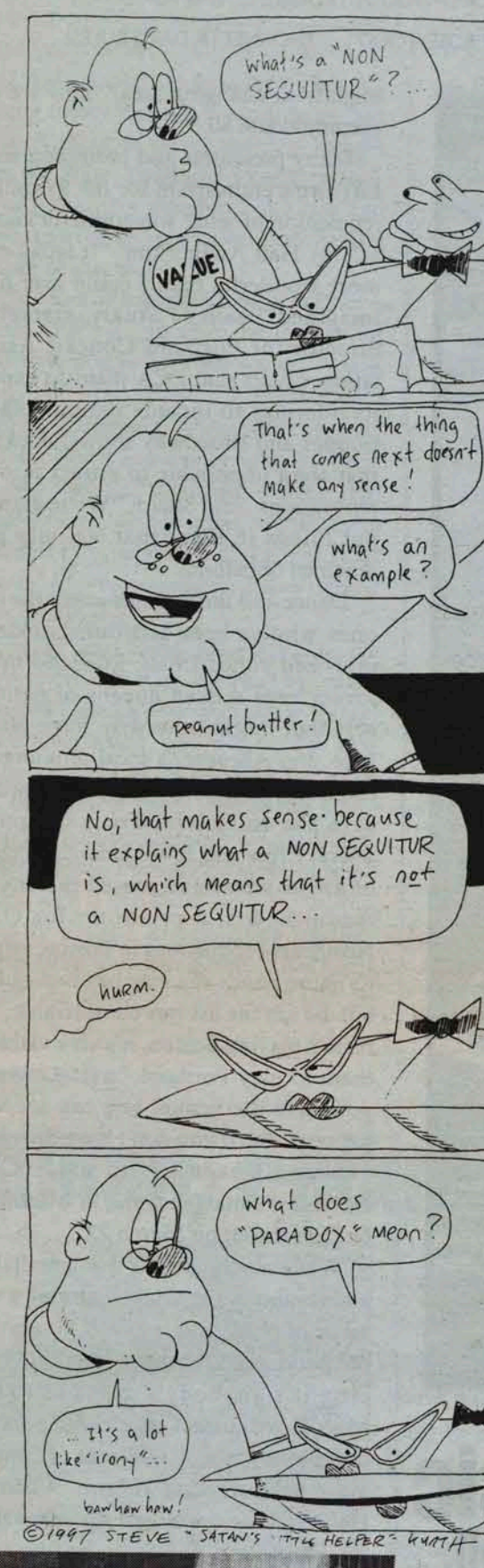
It's not enough for me to "have a heart," ... I need to show it.

George Repp  
Brunswick

### Warning: Adult material

I wanted to voice my concern with a recent issue of *CBW* ("All comics all the time," 2.13.97). Among the harmless Valentine's Day cartoons created by regional

## drunkBoy BY KURTH



## CBWQ

**Exactly who is responsible for the maintenance of the treacherously icy sidewalk on Congress Street between the Maine Med garage and Portland Glass?**

Property owners are responsible for the sidewalk in front of their property. The question in this case is whose property is it. According to city records, the land in question is being held in a trust administered by Portland attorney Charles Miller. Miller said the land is being leased to Portland Glass. Portland Glass, however, was recently bought out by Minneapolis-based Harmon Glass, and a spokesperson at Harmon didn't know if the land in question was part of the recent acquisition. A Portland public works employee simplified the whole question by opining, "It's not a sidewalk in winter."

Got a burning question about life in Greater Portland? Let *CBW*'s crack investigative squad sort it out for you. Those whose questions are selected for publication will receive a complimentary SPAMBO refrigerator magnet. *CBW* Q, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or by fax: 775-1615.

## LETTERS

best I can do is prepare her for this world by arming her with information.

Tim Plumer II  
Gorham

### Smoke rings

Well, here we are in the spring of 1997 and like Valentine's Day, Presidents Day, St. Patrick's Day, etc., etc., another annual event takes place: the annual trek to Augusta by the anti-smoking lobby. You have to give these guys credit, no matter how many times they lose the "no smoking in any restaurant" issue, like the swallows to Capistrano, they always come back!

To understand this issue, you have to understand the following ...

1. This is not an issue between smokers and non-smokers. Our industry has waited on millions of both successfully for years. It is an issue vocalized by a minority of anti-smokers that wish to legislate their thinking upon all of us.

2. The restaurant industry's resistance to this law is in no way meant to create a hardship on non-smokers. The vast majority of us have non-smoking areas, totally smoke-free room and proper air filtration systems. Not to mention hundreds of totally smoke-free restaurants.

3. Going out to dinner or stopping for cocktails is a voluntary pastime, not a mandatory one. If you do not like the atmosphere in a certain restaurant or tavern, the answer is simple, find another! There are plenty of options out there; if this hurts our business, we will change on our own. But in a free market economy that is our decision, not Augusta's!

R. Steve Harris  
Co-owner, Ruski's and Rosie's restaurants  
Portland

### E-mail press release of the week

Hi sir,  
I am young businessman who represent a group of associate that would be very pleased if they can have an affair with you. We are creating the new world interactive newspaper group (NWING). And we would be very honored if you would like to join us.

We already have some 100 newspaper group in our association. I hope you will join us as soon as possible.

Best regards,  
Mr. Haddad Emad-Eddine.

P.S: We will talk about the details later on.



**Y**uppies by any other name: As part of his recent pitch for an order authorizing street closings for a **Harley Davidson owners' convention** in May, Portland City Manager Bob Ganley included the following bits of useful information for Mayor John McDonough and members of the city council: "The median age of a Harley Owners Group member is 46 and the average annual income is \$65,000. A majority of members possess a four-year college degree. The rally is promoted as a family vacation event. We expect that restaurants, hotels and shops will do a tremendous business during this event ... Joe Dowd from

### ear to the pavement



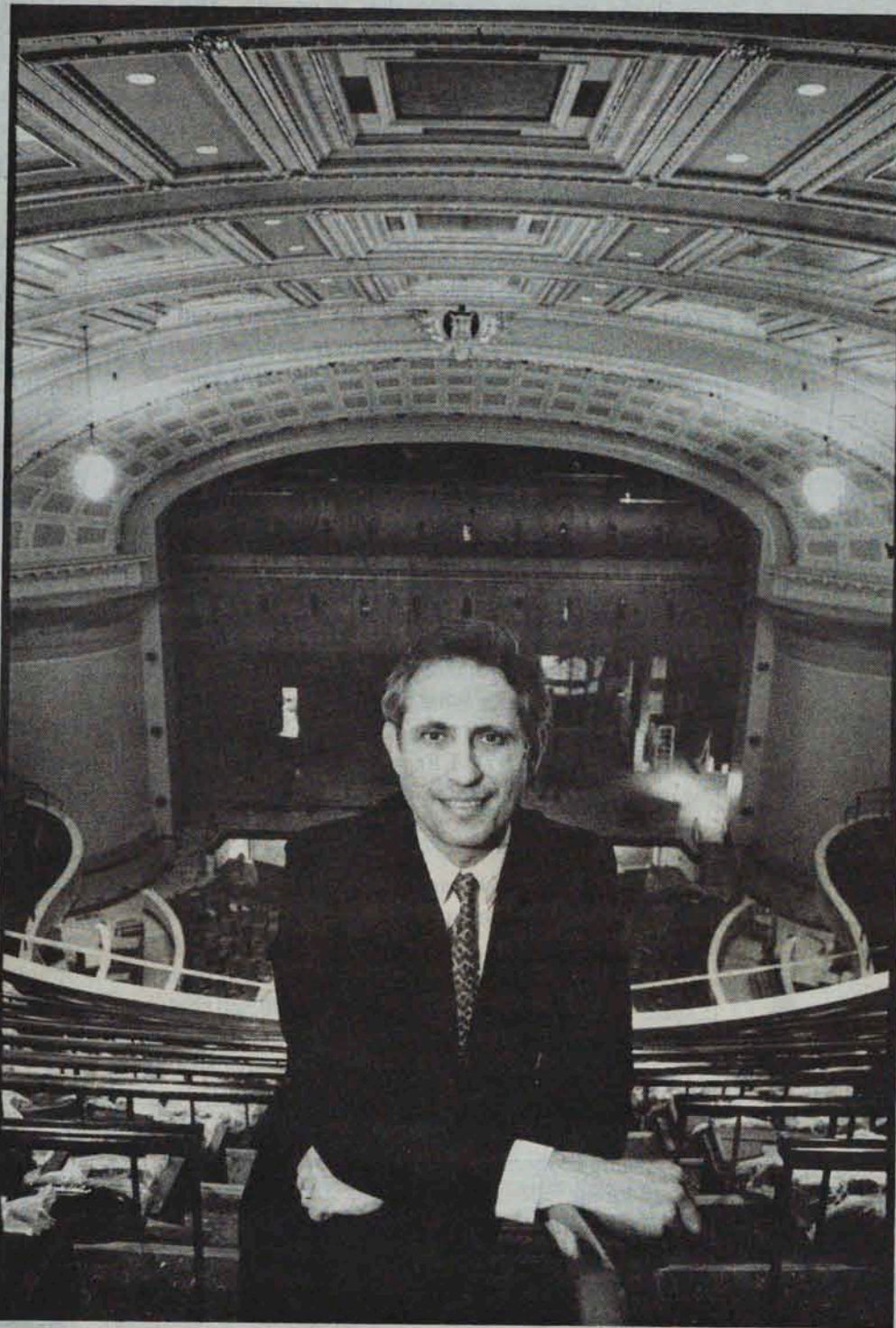
Harley Owners Group and Donna Hanson from the Convention & Visitors Bureau will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. The Convention & Visitors Bureau has checked references in other cities where HOG conventions have been held and no serious problems have arisen." Whatever we ask, happened to the bad old days when biker jamborees enlivened towns with days and nights of boozing, brawling and ear-splitting mass cruises? Now that's a HOG convention. A get-together where Al Gore could pass for dangerous? Thanks, but no thanks. Portland's tea-&-biscuits HOG convention, in case you were wondering, is slated for May 28-31, and is expected to draw somewhere around 5,000 mild-mannered folks.

■ Window on the world: Pedestrians on Congress Street recently have been entertained by the daily clippings appearing in the window of the forthcoming **Clay City/Monroe Salt Works**, in the erstwhile Congress Street Diner space. The large, plate-glass windows are covered with pages from supermarket tabloids like *The Sun* and *Weekly World News*, and sport headlines like "What serial killer Ted Bundy looked like after 500,000 volts in Florida's hot seat" and "Hottest new fast food in Japan — smoked puppies on a bun!" In the middle of all this pulp is a pottery-shard picture frame that highlights a daily item clipped from the *Press Herald*, ranging from weird news items to the ever-enigmatic "Mark Trail" comic strip. The clips are the work of local artist Henry Wolyniec, who's helping Clay City's Bruce Kornbluth get his new shop put together. "There's really no rhyme or reason to it," Kornbluth says. "It's like Henry's very limited clipping service. But it gets people to look in the window." Kornbluth says he and his partner in the new business, Ron Garfinkel, hope to open their 1,800-square-foot retail space sometime in April.

■ Like you needed another reason to drink beer: Feb. 28 is the fourth annual **Great Guinness Toast**, where thousands of beer drinkers across the country will simultaneously raise pints of stout in an effort, if you want to call it that, to set a new world record for the largest mass toast. Toasters can toast at the Pavilion, Brian Boru and Three Dollar Dewey's. Toast time is 11 p.m. **CBW**

## edge

STONED IN BELFAST ... CONGRESS STREET MINUTES GETS PHILOSOPHICAL ... BETWEEN THE LINES LOOKS AT NORTHWOODS TROUBLE ... TIME FOR ETHOS ... CBW REVIEWS JOHN SINGLETON'S "ROSEWOOD" ... THORNETTA DAVIS RULES!



"I'm still just gawking": Merrill Auditorium manager Frank LaTorre PHOTO/COLIN MALAKIE

## The return of the music Portland finally has a real concert hall, but can the city support a real scene?

■ LAURA CONAWAY

Frank LaTorre, the newly installed manager of City Hall's 1,900-seat Merrill Auditorium, was leading a visitor on a recent tour of the facility when he suddenly stopped for a look around. "Don't mind me," he said, staring up into the catwalks and rigging above the stage. "I'm still just gawking. Sometimes when I'm giving a tour, the full impact of the place still hits me."

Considering how far the auditorium has come, LaTorre's amazement is understandable. Before the renovations, the venue had no control room, no in-house sound system, no aerial rigging to

suspend lighting and scenery over the stage, no concession stands, no rehearsal room, no full-time ticket office, no full-time manager, no technical director. Dance companies refused to perform on its concrete stage. Members of the Portland Symphony Orchestra, one of Merrill's three primary tenants, say they couldn't hear each other in performance. Now Merrill, slated to open March 5, will offer artists and audiences not only clear sight lines and pristine acoustics, but also those amenities they once suffered without. "Where the old dressing room could accommodate four," said LaTorre, opening the door to a large,

brightly lit changing area, "now we can accommodate 80."

Many presenters and promoters share LaTorre's enthusiasm for the \$9 million renovation of what was formerly known as City Hall Auditorium. "It looks even more wonderful than I could ever have imagined," said JJ Stuart, marketing director for Portland Concert Association. Stuart said PCA plans to expand its offerings to include national dance troupes and Broadway shows, bookings that were impossible to attract prior to renovations. Said Stuart, "We're going to put things in there that we only ever dreamed of before."

Dance and theater fans aren't the only ones who've been left out. Lacking a midsize concert hall, Portland music lovers have missed dozens of national acts that might otherwise have played here. Jim Ahearn, a local promoter for the Boston-based Don Law Company, says Shawn Colvin, Tracy Chapman, Sheryl Crow and Jewel head the long list of artists who have passed the city by. Adam Lewis, a promoter for Great Northeast Productions in Boston, refused to name bands the city has lost out on, but did say the list was considerable. "If a band's playing Boston, it's very viable for them to play Portland," said Lewis. "If you have the venue, you can see what happens. But if you don't have the venue, you don't even get to ask." Great Northeast's maiden show in Merrill will be Lyle Lovett on March 22.

While no one doubts that a revitalized auditorium in City Hall, featuring a wide array of programming, will be anything but good news for the cultural life of the city, it's anybody's guess as to how Merrill will affect its closest potential competitor, the 1,600-seat (and once-again-defunct) State Theatre. When City Hall Auditorium closed for renovations two years ago, the State had begun to attract big-name artists — Bob Dylan, Robert Cray, Sarah McLachlan, and so forth. Unlike their city-owned competitor, though, the people running the State faced a \$12,000 monthly rent, a figure many say doomed the theater from the start. Since 1996, two companies (run by the same people) have gone broke trying to keep the State open, repeatedly shuttering the theater and leaving ticket buyers feeling they'd been shafted. On Feb. 21, State of the Arts, the organization most recently struggling to run the theater, announced it was giving the keys back to the theater's landlords, Nick and Lola Kampf, in an effort to avoid prolonged eviction proceedings for unpaid rent. The Kampts say they're not sure what they'll do with the theater now, but

say they want to see it reopen.

"If [the State] does open," said LaTorre, "I would call the management team on the first day and say, 'Let's get together to see how we could complement each other.'" At the moment, at least, that appears to be a pretty big 'if'; people aren't exactly pounding on the Kampts' door in their eagerness to take over the State, and some local entertainment presenters wonder if the city can realistically support two competing venues of that size.

"If Merrill's going to be a well-run venue, that's going to make Portland a more attractive city for artists," said Grant Wilson, owner of Stone Coast Brewing Company. "Any well-run, successful place is going to be a plus. If there are two well-run successful places, that means there's a huge scene in this town. Can this city support a scene like that? Maybe. Maybe sometime. I don't know if it's this year."

For the time being, Merrill will be the only medium-size venue in town designed expressly for presenting music, dance and theater, and will occupy that crucial musical niche between the clubs and the Civic Center. While the Civic Center might be suitable for giant acts like Smashing Pumpkins, more obscure bands like Throwing Muses, which recently played Zootz, need smaller rooms they can fill. Stone Coast, for example, recently hosted Matthew

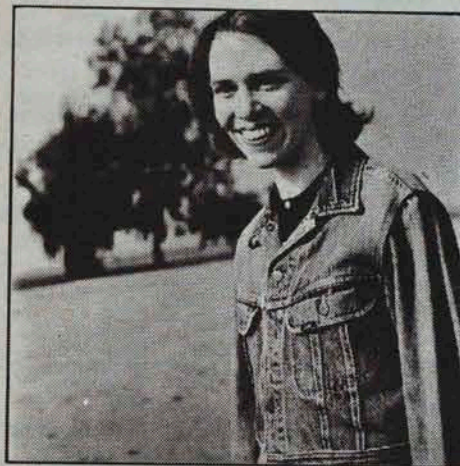
Sweet, Better Than Ezra and The Connells, three acts Wilson says would have played at Merrill or the State. It's those national-caliber, name acts, the ones that play the Music Hall in Portsmouth, N.H., or the Flynn Theatre in Burlington, Vt., that Merrill will be most attractive to.

LaTorre said Merrill will welcome a variety of pop acts, though the venue's seating arrangement won't allow for dancing. "There isn't a place to dance, and we're going to enforce that in terms of security," he said. Already, though, Merrill has booked artists known for their dance-happy, sometimes rowdy, fans. Don Law's Ahearn, for instance, is bringing jam rockers Widespread Panic to Merrill on April 25. Rustic Overtones is tentatively scheduled to perform there May 2 as part of the theater's grand opening festival, which runs through May 10 and will include artists ranging from the Portland Symphony to Patty Loveless to Tim Sample.

Dancing may not be part of the plan, but variety is. The Widespread Panic show, Ahearn said, "isn't exactly a recital," but it's still a good fit. He likes the space, not just as a rock venue, but as a room for an assortment of sit-down shows, from classical to jazz to, yes, even hippied-out jam rock. "It's a theater," Ahearn said. "It's not now and never will be a rock 'n' roll room. And that's good." **CBW**

### preview

## Gillian, redux



The return of the songwriter: Gillian Welch

It was late last August, only a few days before Granny Killams closed its doors, and the club was packed with an odd assortment of music fans — rockers, bluegrass types, card-carrying folkies, a smattering of guys who looked like they might be more at home throwing elbows in a surging mosh pit. The unlikely object of the polyglot crowd's attention was Gillian Welch, a 28-year-old singer-songwriter who stood onstage with her musical partner, David Rawlings, and sang old-fashioned, unadorned songs with names like "Orphan Girl," "Annabelle" and "Tear My Stillhouse Down." Her stuff was a little bit country, a little bluegrass — call it folk, for lack of a better term — backed by acoustic guitars and featuring dead-on vocal harmonies, delivered in an up-holler twang. The rockers and folkies and bluegrassers and headbangers sipped their beers, quietly, and listened; good songwriting, well-delivered, was the common denominator of why we were all there, and we weren't disappointed.

Welch's debut album, "Revival" (produced by Mr. Midas Touch himself, T-Bone Burnett), is still winning praise in the music press while Welch's star continues to ascend. So what if she's from West Los Angeles but sings like a Tennessee girl, born and bred? What matters is the sound, and Welch's is as honest and true as they come.

■ SCOTT SUTHERLAND

Gillian Welch performs March 1 at Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave., at 9 p.m. Tix: \$10, \$12 day of show. 773-6886.

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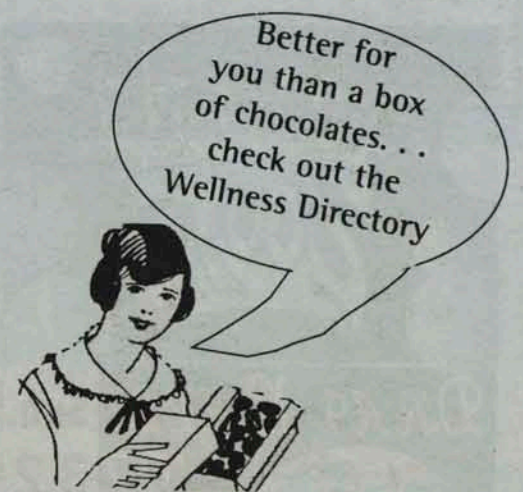
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**Thoretta Davis** Sun 3-2  
8pm • \$5

**Sun 3-16 Michael Hedges**  
8pm • \$15 adv/ \$17 day of

**Ferron** Wed 3-19  
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**zootz dance schedule**

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**Fri 2-8 Lazy Lightning**

**Sat 3-1 ROOM ON FIRE**

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**Thurs 3-6 Diesel Doug & the Long Haul Truckers**

**Fri 3-7 LIQUID DAYDREAM**

**Sat 3-8 SPILL**

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**Fri. Happy Hour Buffet 5-7**  
**GIRLS NIGHT OUT! LADIES IN FREE Fat Bag**

**Sat. TWISTED EP Release Party**

**W/ Godsmack ROOTS**

**TUES. \$1 NIGHT**

**Nine Shades of White**

**Thurs. 3-6 Q South**

**Fri. 3-7 PIRAEUS**

**Sat. 3-7 Entrain W/ Edison**

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### Prime cut

Where to start with Detroit R&B and blues belter **THORNETTA DAVIS**? With her full-bodied, soulful voice, Davis could sing anything she wants to. The sound she and her funk-rock backup band, Big Chief, have opted for on their new release, "Sunday Morning Music," is a funky, bluesy rock that's completely addictive. The first track, "Cry," reels you into a tale of unrequited love with unconventional metaphors — "I'm like an insect in amber, suspended in time" — and driving guitar. Davis' talents aren't monopolized by heartache, though. "Come Go With Me" is a springy little song that will lift your spirits, while "Sunday Morning" laments the days when church kept people together and out of trouble. Davis and her band especially shine on their remake of Stevie Wonder's resistance anthem, "You Haven't Done Nothin'." March 2 at Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave, Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$5. 773-6886.

### thursday 27

**The Basement**  
Wild Oats (country rock), 1 Exchange St, Portland, 828-1111.

**The Big Easy**  
Big Jack Johnson (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland, 773-3315.

**Comedy Connection**  
Portland's Funniest Professional Contest, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Making Monsters, 128 Free St, Portland, 774-1114.

**Geno's**  
Reggae-Mun-ia with Reggae Roots, 13 Brown St, Portland, 772-7891.

**The Moon**  
College Night (DJ Jayce spins top 40 dance), 427 Fore St, Portland, 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Zacc Tyler (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland, 774-0444.

**The Pavilion**  
DJ Jim Dawg Lynch (top 40), 188 Middle St, Portland, 773-6422.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
Gouds Thumb and Mars Needs Women, 14 York St, Portland, 773-2337.

**Tipperary Pub**  
Greg Powers Karaoke, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd, So. Portland, 775-6161.

**The Underground**  
Retro Dance with Bob Look, 3 Spring St, Portland, 773-3315.

**Zootz**  
Funeral (gothic industrial dance party), 31 Forest Ave, Portland, 773-8187.

### Friday 28

**The Basement**  
Lazy Lightning (Dead covers), 1 Exchange St, Portland, 828-1111.

**The Big Easy**  
Red Light Revue (R&B/blues), 416 Fore St, Portland, 780-1207.

**Comedy Connection**  
Mike Donovan, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Swaylode (heavy modern rock), 128 Free St, Portland, 774-1114.

**Geno's**  
Dr. Doo and Groove Tree, 13 Brown St, Portland, 772-7891.

**Granny Killams**  
PCP (hard-edged melodic pop-rock), Jonas Turbine and Near Frank Quality, 55 Market St, Portland, 774-5246.

**The Moon**  
House Party (DJ Jayce), 427 Fore St, Portland, 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Zacc Tyler (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland, 774-0444.

**The Pavilion**  
Motor Booty Affair (funk covers), 188 Middle St, Portland, 773-6422.

**Raoul's**  
John Hammond (blues), 865 Forest Ave, Portland, 773-6886.

**Sisters**  
Not Nuns (acoustic duo), 45 Danforth St, Portland, 774-1505.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
Fat Bag (hip-hop/funk) and Hamel On Trial, 14 York St, Portland, 773-2337.

**T-Birds**  
DJ Steve Nason (70s dance), 126 N. Boyd St, Portland, 773-8040.

**Tipperary Pub**  
Lee Sykes, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd, So. Portland, 775-6161.

**The Underground**  
Dancing with DJ Andy, 3 Spring St, Portland, 773-3315.

**Verrillo's**  
Chameleon, 155 Riverside St, Portland, 775-6536.

**Zootz**  
Bounce! (DJ Larre Love spins until 3 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland, 773-8187.

### saturday 1

**The Basement**  
Room on Fire, 1 Exchange St, Portland, 828-1111.

**The Big Easy**  
Black & White (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland, 780-1207.

**Comedy Connection**  
Mike Donovan, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Rauncheros, 128 Free St, Portland, 774-1114.

**Geno's**  
One Last Sin and 3 More Bullets, 13 Brown St, Portland, 772-7891.

**Granny Killams**  
Dysfunkshun (rap-funk) and Chin Hol (folk core), 55 Market St, Portland, 774-5246.

**The Industry**  
Dance with DJ Mix, 50 Wharf St, Portland, 879-0865.

**The Moon**  
Portland's Best Dance Party (DJ Jayce), 427 Fore St, Portland, 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Tempest (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland, 774-0444.

**The Pavilion**  
DJ Jim Dawg Lynch (top 40), 188 Middle St, Portland, 773-6422.

**Raoul's**  
Gillian Welch (folk), 865 Forest Ave, Portland, 773-6886.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
Twisted Roots EP Release Party and Godsmack, 14 York St, Portland, 773-2337.

**Tipperary Pub**  
Alan King Band, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd, So. Portland, 775-6161.

**The Underground**  
Dancing with DJ Andy, 3 Spring St, Portland, 773-3315.

**Verrillo's**  
Chameleon, 155 Riverside St, Portland, 775-6536.

**Zootz**  
Decades of Dance (70s, '80s and '90s dance music), 31 Forest Ave, Portland, 773-8187.

### sunday 2

**Comedy Connection**  
Butch Bradley's Comedy Showcase, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Seed Cutters (Irish folk), 128 Free St, Portland, 774-1114.

**Gritty McDuff's**  
Albert Ois, 396 Fore St, Portland, 772-2739.

**The Moon**  
'70s Retro Party (DJ Jayce), 427 Fore St, Portland, 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Tempest (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland, 774-0444.

**Raoul's**  
Thornetta Davis with Big Chief, 865 Forest Ave, Portland, 773-6886.

**The Underground**  
Dancing with Jammin' Joe (karaoke in front lounge), 3 Spring St, Portland, 773-3315.

**Wharf's End**  
Open Mic with Ken Grimsey, 52 Wharf St, Portland, 773-0093.

**Zootz**  
All Request Night (dance until 3 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland, 773-8187.

### monday 3

**The Big Easy**  
Laser Karaoke with Ray Dog, 416 Fore St, Portland, 780-1207.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Open Mic, 128 Free St, Portland, 774-1114.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Tempest (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland, 774-0444.

**Zootz**  
Rec Room (open 8 pm-1 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland, 773-8187.

### tuesday 4

**The Big Easy**  
Mike Hayward's All Star Revue (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland, 780-1207.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Poetry night followed by Big World (jazz), 128 Free St, Portland, 774-1114.

**Gritty McDuff's**  
Big Chicken, 396 Fore St, Portland, 772-2739.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Mystik Highway, 11 Moulton St, Portland, 774-0444.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
Nine Shades of White (51 night), 14 York St, Portland, 773-2337.

**Zootz**  
Rec Room (open 8 pm-1 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland, 773-8187.

### wednesday 5

**The Big Easy**  
Red Light Revue (R&B/blues), 416 Fore St, Portland, 780-1207.

**Comedy Connection**  
Improv starring the ID, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Diesel Love Truck (rig rock), 128 Free St, Portland, 774-1114.

**Geno's**  
Uptown and unplugged, 13 Brown St, Portland, 772-7891.

**Gritty McDuff's**  
Desprit Avakadoz, 396 Fore St, Portland, 772-2739.

**The Moon**  
Ladies' Night (DJ Will), 427 Fore St, Portland, 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Mystik Highway, 11 Moulton St, Portland, 774-0444.

**Zootz**  
Rec Room (open 8 pm-1 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland, 773-8187.

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**Wed 3-5**

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## INTERESTING FACTS

There's an error in the Declaration of Independence when it says all people have "unalienable rights." The word should have been "inalienable," which is how Thomas Jefferson wrote it. But in the final version, "inalienable" was mistakenly changed to "unalienable."

How much have postal rates increased? In the 1930's, it cost 3¢ to mail a first class letter. By 1971, the rate was just 8¢. It reached 10¢ in 1974; 15¢ in 1978; 20¢ in 1981; 25¢ in 1988, and 32¢ in 1995 — an increase in 60 years of over 1,000%.

The pretzel was invented in the Middle Ages by an Italian monk. It was designed to look like arms folded in prayer.

Amazingly, when the famous Marquis de Lafayette was appointed a major general in the Continental army while helping Americans in the Revolutionary War in 1777, he was only 19 years old.

And here's another interesting fact... Did you know there is no Plank Road Brewery? Beers under the plank Road Brewery label are really brewed by Miller brewery. And did you know, all Anheuser-Busch brands state very clearly on the label where the beer is brewed? As the Anheuser-Busch folks say, "our honest, easy-to-read 'born-on' date is your guarantee of brewery fresh taste, because you can see for yourself how fresh the beer is." Yes, fresh beer taste better!

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# listings

Casco Bay Weekly listings are a fun and free service to our readers. To have a listing considered for publication, send complete information (including dates, times, costs, complete address, a contact telephone number) by noon on Thursday prior to publication.

## stage

**"The Adventures of Peter Pan"** The Windham Center Stage Theater presents an original musical version of Peter Pan. At Windham Community Center, Route 202, Windham, March 1-16, Sat 2 & 7 pm, Sun 2 pm. Tix: \$8 (\$6 seniors & students/\$1 kids), 893-1912.

**"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas"** The Lyric Theater presents the comical musical about a small town scandal. At Portland Lyric Theater, 176 Sawyer St. So, Portland, Feb 28-March 9, Fri & Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Tix: \$11-\$13, 799-1421 or 799-6509.

**"Cupid and Psyche"** Figures of Speech Theater presents its own adaptation of the 2,000 year old Greek myth. At the Mast Landing School, 116 Bow St. Freeport, March 7 at 7 pm, March 8 at 3 pm, March 7: \$8 (\$4 kids), March 8: \$15 (\$8 kids), 865-6355.

**"Fire Light Tales"** Oak Street Theatre continues its family series with storyteller David Neufeld, whose stories include giant shadows of animals, an ancient Maine love story and mummies in the library closet. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland, March 1, 2, 8 & 9, Sat & Sun 2 pm. Tix: \$5 (\$15 family of 4), 775-5103.

**"Iphigenia and Other Daughters"** Portland Stage Company presents Ellen McLaughlin's stage adaptation of three Greek myths, removing men as the focal point, leaving a powerful drama through the eyes of Clytemnestra and her daughters. At Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., Portland, March 2-23, Tues-Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 5 & 9 pm, Sun 2 & 7:30 pm. Tix: \$18-\$29 (discounts available to students, groups and seniors), March 8 is pay-what-you-can-night. March 9 is community night, half price tix for artists, educators and non-profit groups. 774-0465.

**"The Magic Flute"** USM's music and theater departments present a collaborative production of Mozart's opera. At Russell Hall, USM Campus, Gorham, March 7, 9, 12, 14 & 16, Wed & Fri 7:30 pm, Sun 5 pm. Tix: \$8 (\$6 seniors/\$4 students), 780-5483.

**"Pushing Through"** Acorn Productions presents Shauna Kanter's performance piece about the plight of Israeli and Palestinian women, using music, singing and spoken word. Preview performance March 5 at Ludcke Auditorium, Westbrook College, at 7:30 pm. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland, March 20-April 6, Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 5 pm. The April 6 performance will be followed by an educational forum with Dr. Elise Young. Tix: \$12 (Thurs is 2-for-1), 775-5103.

**"Renée"** Embassy Players presents Hank Beebe's musical story of a Holocaust survivor who triumphs over the horror of her past to love again. At ACTS, 341 Cumberland Ave., Portland, Feb 28-March 16, Fri & Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. Tix: \$10 (\$8 seniors/students), 761-2465.

**"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me"** Dark Water Theatre Company presents Frank McGuinness' story about the relationships between three hostages held in a makeshift cell in Lebanon. At the Danforth Gallery, 20-36 Danforth St., Portland, March 13-30, Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 7 pm. Tix: \$13 (\$10 students/seniors), 892-3728.

**"Truth Be Known"** Mad Horse Children's Theatre presents the real story of Snow White, Cinderella and Hansel and Gretel. At Mad Horse Theatre, 955 Forest Ave., Portland, March 7-16, Fri 7 pm, Sat 10:30 am & 2 pm, Sun 2 pm. Tix: \$6, 797-3338.

### auditions/etc

**Auditions** The Schoolhouse Arts Center at Sebago Lake holds auditions for its production of the musical "The Secret Garden" March 9 from 1-4 pm and March 10 from 6:30-9 pm, at the Schoolhouse Arts Center, Route 114, Sebago Lake Village. Many adult roles available, also boys age 10-12 and girls age 12-14, 642-3742 or 675-3457.

**Auditions** Dark Water Theatre Company seeks two men and two women to join the cast of "Durang/Durang" for a second run. Auditions are by appointment only during Feb and March, 892-3728.

**Performing Arts for Children** The Warren Memorial Library is taking registrations for the 1997 spring sessions of "Warren Kids." The Sat sessions begin March 1 with two age groups: 10+ meets from 1:30-3 pm, and ages 6-9 meets from 3:30-5 pm. Sessions run through March 22. Cost: \$15 (financial assistance available), 828-4654.

**Post Performance Discussions** Portland Stage Company holds post performance discussions to

accompany its production of "Iphigenia and Other Daughters." Scholars on Stage: "How to Handle a Woman: Women's Roles in Greek Tragedy," March 9, with Dr. Dolores O'Higgins, professor of Classics at Bates College. Curtain Call Discussion: March 16, with cast of "Iphigenia and Other Daughters." Discussions begin 10 minutes after the 2 pm performances. At Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., Portland, Free, 774-0465.

**Reindeer Performing Arts for Kids** begins a new 10-week spring session for ages 7 and up, Saturdays from 10:30 am-noon. At Reindeer Pointe, 650 Forest Ave., 2nd floor, Portland. Cost: \$50, 874-9002.

**Scripts Wanted** The Theater Project in Brunswick will hold a public reading of new scripts from Maine playwrights and performance artists, April 4 & 5. Interested writers and performers should send works to: The Theater Project, 14 School St., Brunswick, Me 04011. Deadline is March 3, 729-8584.

**Volunteers Needed** Oak Street Theatre Company has volunteer opportunities in a variety of areas, from set construction and painting to poster distribution and front of house. Volunteers receive complimentary tickets. For more info, call Michael Levine between 2-5 pm, 775-5103.

## preview

### Jazz got soul

Jazz fans who heard saxophonist James Carter at the State Street Church a year-and-a-half ago aren't likely to have forgotten him. One of jazz's new young lions, Carter roared through his set with a loose-limbed, incendiary ferocity that had concert-goers shaking their heads in astonishment. Not that Carter is all neo-bop pyrotechnics, though; his playing moved effortlessly between



Jazz the way jazz should be: James Carter

A native of Detroit, Carter, 27, toured as a teenager with Wynton Marsalis, and later played with Lester Bowie and Julius Hemphill; Bowie, for one, has called Carter "the greatest sax player to come around since Coltrane." He was featured in Robert Altman's film "Kansas City," and has been the recipient of numerous kudos from the jazz press, with his recordings making the year-end best-of lists of both the *New York Times* and the *Village Voice*. His March 1 show at Bates College in Lewiston requires a bit of driving, of course, but if there's a better reason for a mid-winter roadtrip, we're not aware of it.

■ SCOTT SUTHERLAND

The James Carter Quartet performs March 1 at the chapel on the campus of Bates College, Lewiston, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$10. Reserve tix by phone by calling 786-6135.

**Young Playwrights Contest** The Children's Theatre of Maine presents its 8th annual contest for every one 18 and under. Deadline is March 1. Print your name, age, school, address and phone number. Submit typewritten plays to: The Children's Theatre of Maine, P.O. Box 1011, Portland, Me 04104, 874-0371.

## concerts

**thursday 27**  
**Harold Stover and Roberta Page Barker** The two nationally known artists perform a program of baroque, classical and romantic music. At First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland at 12:15 pm. Free. Sponsored by the Portland Conservatory of Music, 625-4439.

**friday 28**  
**Devonsquare/Schooner Fare Reunion Concert** At Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$12.50 (21+). Proceeds benefit the Jack McPhillips Memorial Fund, 839-6339.

**Graybert Beacham and Yuri Funahashi** A performance by USM faculty members Graybert Beacham, viola, and Yuri Funahashi, piano. At Corbett Concert Hall, USM Campus, Gorham, at 8 pm. Tix: \$9 (\$5 seniors/students), 780-5555.

**Huon-Huon Tu: Threat Singers of Tuva** Portland Performing Arts' Big Sounds From All Over Series presents music from the South Siberian Grasslands. At First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$16. Huon-Huon Tu will give a throat singing workshop March 1 at Portland Performing Arts Center, 25A Forest Ave., Portland, at 10 am. Cost: \$10, 761-1545.

## saturday 1

**James Carter** The critically acclaimed saxophonist plays a concert blending mainstream and free jazz. At the Chapel, Bates College, Lewiston, at 8 pm. Tix: \$10, 786-6135.

**David Lelander** The classical guitarist plays a program entitled "The Early Romantics." At Corbett Concert Hall, USM Campus, Gorham, at 8 pm. Tix: \$9 (\$5 seniors/students), 780-5555.

**Ethos Percussion Group** Portland Concert Association presents the Ethos Percussion group performing contemporary and traditional percussion from South America, India, Africa and the Pacific Rim. At Portland High School Theater, 284 Cumberland Ave., Portland, at 8 pm. Precutrain talk at 6:30 pm. Tix: \$18 (discounts available). Ethos leader Michael Sgouros offers a master class Feb 27 at Deering High School, Stevens Ave., from 6:30-8:30 pm. Cost: \$20 (\$10 observers), 772-8630.

**"Sing a Mighty Song"** The Choral Arts Society celebrates 25 years of making music with selections including Norman Dello Joio's "Song to St. Cecilia" and Johannes Brahms' "Motet." At the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 307 Congress St., Portland, at 8 pm. Also 2 at 2:30 p.m., 828-0043.

**The Wallflowers** at UNE Campus Center, Biddeford. Tix: \$18 (\$15 advance), 283-0171, ext 2185.

## sunday 2

**Mike McGuire** The local singer/songwriter performs at the Foredale Cafe, 201 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth, from noon-2 pm. Free, 729-3509.

**"Sing a Mighty Song"** The Choral Arts Society celebrates 25 years of making music with selections including Norman Dello Joio's "Song to St. Cecilia" and Johannes Brahms' "Motet." At the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 307 Congress St., Portland, at 2:30 p.m., 828-0043.

## tuesday 4

**All-City Concert** Portland public schools' annual instrumental all-city concert featuring combined middle and high school bands and orchestras. At the Portland Expo, Tix: \$1 (\$5 cents kids/\$2 families), 774-8078.

## wednesday 5

**"Poetic Memories"** The Portland Symphony Orchestra returns to City Hall Auditorium for a performance featuring music inspired by great works of literature. At Merrill Auditorium, City Hall, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tom Myron, a composer and PSO director of education, will give an informal pre-concert lecture "Literature Into Music," at 6:30 pm. Tix: \$17-\$37, 773-8191.

## dance

**Dinner & Dance** March 1. The Centre of Movement hosts a buffet dinner and dancing to the music of the Dick Poland Combo. At Centre of Movement School of Performing Arts, Route 25, Gorham. Dinner at 7 pm, dancing from 8-11 pm. Cost: \$7, 839-3267.

**Family Dance** March 1. At the Naragansett School, Main St., Gorham, from 7-11 pm. Tix: \$5 (\$3 kids/\$15 family). Proceeds benefit the Gorham High School Music Department's trip to Canada. 839-5017.

**Line Dancing** Friday nights from 7:30-9 pm. At the YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland. Ages 10 and up. For details, call Lauretta Gregoire at 874-1130 ext. 3010.

**Singles Dance** The Singles' Network holds a dance the 2nd Sat of the month. March 8: music by Good Vibrations. At the Ramada Inn, 1230 Congress St., Portland, from 8:15-midnight. Cost: \$6 (\$5 members), 1-800-814-9609.

## events

**Bing! Bam! Boom!** March 1. The Portland Museum of Art presents a drum-making workshop and performance by the Ethos Percussion Group. At PMA, 7 Congress Sq., Portland. Workshop at 1 pm, performance at 2 pm. Workshop is free. Performance \$7 (\$4 kids). For tix, call Portland Concert Association at 772-8630.

**Drag Ball '97** March 2. A Portland Pride '97 fundraiser featuring Greater Portland's premier drag queens. Hosted by Ashley Nason. At Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., Portland, from 9 pm-3 am, all-ages admitted after 1:15 am. Shows at 10:30 pm and 1:30 am. Tix: \$6 (\$5 advance), 773-8187.

**Suzanne Westenhofer** March 1. One of America's most visible and popular openly gay comedienne. At State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland, at 7 pm. Tix: \$16.50-\$35. Proceeds benefit the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine. A post-show reception will be held at Katahdin Restaurant, 106

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

## underworld

**#1 Electronic Artist of the Year** - Rolling Stone Critics Poll

**Pearl's Girl** the new EP - 7 new tracks

**underworld: born sloppy**

**Trainspotting**

**Born Slippy** Best Single of the Year - NME and Melody Maker

**Second Toughest in the Infants** One of the year's most influential releases. - LA Weekly

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The Indigo Girls will also be appearing at The Whittemore Center, University of N.H. • Durham, NH on April 12. Tickets available at Whittemore Box Office, or charge by phone 207-775-3331

An hour ago she couldn't even hold the cue,  
She's my fiercest competitor,  
before tonight she was my girlfriend.  
Am I being hustled?  
She just made the best shot I've ever seen.

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**wine & dine**

see casco bay weekly's dining section

**The Choral Art Society**  
Robert Russell, Musical Director

*Sing a Mighty Song*

Choral Art at 25

Saturday, March 1, 1997, 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, March 2, 1997, 2:30 p.m.  
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
307 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

Gala Reception following March 2 performance

Concert Tickets:  
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Culley Music Shops -  
Portland, Bookland -  
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Harbour Books - Yarmouth,  
MacBean's Music - Brunswick,  
Record Rendezvous - Kennebunk

For Concert and  
Gala Reception  
Tickets: Call  
the Choral Art  
Society office at  
(207) 828-0043

**It's Coming!**

*The Third Annual Spring Thing*

April 1, 6 p.m.  
Holiday Inn by the Bay.  
Tickets: Call Ingraham, 874-1055.

# calendar

Submissions for the calendar must be received in writing on the Thursday prior to the publication. Send your calendar listings to Zoe Miller, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.



**friday 28** In the South Siberian grasslands, music is not mere entertainment, it's a way of life. Yak and shepherders use ancient musical techniques to calm herds or attract wild animals. Portland Performing Arts' Big Sounds From All Over Series presents **Huun-Huur-Tu: The Throat Singers of Tuva** performing the magical music of their region — throat singing, or "khöömei," which recreates natural sounds like flowing water, birds or the jingle of stirrups. With precise movements of the lips, tongue and throat, Huun-Huur-Tu are able to intensify harmonics naturally present in the human voice. The resulting harmonies leave most audiences awestruck. At First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., at 8 p.m. Tix: \$16. Learn the ancient art of throat singing at a workshop with Huun-Huur Tu March 1 at Portland Performing Arts Center, 25A Forest Ave., at 10 a.m. Cost: \$10. 761-1545.

**thursday 27** If the richest woman in the world wanted to give you \$100 million, would you refuse her sexual advances? Such is the dilemma at hand in **"Tiny Alice,"** the latest production from Vintage Repertory Company. Find out if the highly repressed Brother Julian will sacrifice his vows for a bundle of cash. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., at 8 p.m. Tix: \$12 (Thurs is 2-for-1). "Tiny Alice" shows through March 16. 775-5103. **saturday 1** Some say the drum is the most important instrument. When the **Ethos Percussion Group** plays, the drum is the only instrument. Presented by Portland Concert Association, the group performs contemporary and traditional percussion from South America, India, Africa and the Pacific Rim. At Portland High School auditorium, 284 Cumberland Ave., at 8 p.m. Pre-curtain talk at 6:30 p.m. Tix: \$18 (discounts available). Kids can check out "Bing! Bam! Boom!", a drum-making workshop and performance by Ethos at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Sq., Portland. Workshop at 1 p.m., performance at 2 p.m. Workshop is free. Performance \$7 (\$4 kids). 772-8630.

**sunday 2** Two big events, two good causes.

First there's funny girl **Suzanne Westenhofer**. One of America's most visible and popular openly gay comedienne, Westenhofer's show benefits the Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine. At State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland, at 7 p.m. Tix: \$16.50-\$35. A post-show reception will be held at Katahdin Restaurant, 106 High St., Portland. 773-6974. A little later, hustle over to the **Drag Ball '97**, a Portland Pride '97 fundraiser featuring Greater Portland's premier drag queens, hosted by Ashley Nason. At Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., from 9 p.m.-3 a.m., all-ages admitted after 1:15 a.m. Shows at 10:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. Tix: \$6 (\$5 advance). 773-8187. **monday 3** After watching **"Fire on the Mountain,"** the



"I didn't choose to be gay - I was chosen!"  
Funny girl Suzanne Westenhofer, March 2.

incredible true story of WWII's 10th Mountain Division, you'll never feel the same about strapping on your skis. Packed with archival footage, the film tells the stories of these skiing soldiers, through the war and beyond. At The Movies, 10 Exchange St., at 5, 6:30 & 8 p.m. "Fire on the Mountain" shows through March 4. Tix: \$4.25. On March 2, Casper Cowan, a former member of the 10th Mountain Division, will be there to talk about his experiences at 3, 5 and 9 p.m. 772-9600.

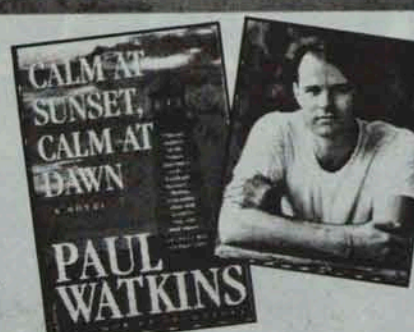
**tuesday 4** History has a tendency to focus on his side of things, but Portland Stage Company's new production, Ellen McLaughlin's **"Iphigenia and Other Daughters,"** aims to even things out a bit. A stage adaptation of three Greek myths, McLaughlin has tinkered with the focus of the stories to create a drama through the eyes of Clytemnestra and her daughters. At Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$18-\$29 (discounts available). "Iphigenia and Other Daughters" shows March 2-23. 774-0465. **wednesday 5** At long last, the Portland Symphony Orchestra returns to City Hall's Merrill Auditorium for a performance called **"Poetic Memories,"** featuring music inspired by great works of literature, at 7:30 p.m. Tom Myron, a composer and PSO director of education, will give an informal pre-concert lecture, "Literature Into Music," at 6:30 p.m. Tix: \$17-\$37. 773-8191.

**thursday 6** Get back to the origins of guitar with USM faculty guitarist **Keith Crook**. Crook performs a variety of works for classical guitar at Corthell Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 7 p.m. Tix: \$5 (\$3 seniors/students). 780-5555. **friday 7** March isn't known for inspiring love stories, but that won't stop USM's music and theater departments from presenting **"The Magic Flute,"** Mozart's fairy tale-esque opera. At Russell Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$8 (\$6 seniors/\$4 students). Also March 9, 12, 14 & 16. 780-5483. **saturday 8** You needn't wait until summer to hear some good campfire stories. Oak Street Theatre presents storyteller David Neufeld with **"Fire Light Tales,"** an adventure including giant shadows of animals, an ancient Maine love story and mummies in the library closet. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., at 2 p.m. Tix: \$5 (\$15 family of 4). Also March 1, 2 & 9. 775-5103.

## MEET PAUL WATKINS AT GREATER BOOKLAND!

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Friday, February 28  
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Thurs 6-9 w/ Japanese potter  
Yuji Yasui

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w/ Susan Bickford  
Tues 6-9

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Teapot Show  
Opening March 14th 6-8

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

High St., Portland, 773-6974.

**The Return of the Jazz Breakfast** Sundays through March 23. The Portland Museum of Art invites you to bring your friends and the Sunday paper for a morning of jazz. At PMA, 7 Congress Sq., Portland, from 10:30 am-noon. Music is free with admission (\$6/\$5 seniors & students/\$1 youth). Breakfast available a la carte from the museum cafe. 775-6148.

**The Big, All Day Improvisational Comedy Workshop** March 8. Tim Ferrell and Lesley Abrams of LaughingStock help you explore improv techniques and games. 9 am-5 pm. Call for location. 879-0070.

**Women's Film and Video Festival** March 7-9. The Portland Museum of Art presents its 4th annual festival with 13 films either written, directed or produced by women, including "Girls Town," "The Midwife's Tale" and "Hub Cap World." At PMA, 7 Congress Sq., Portland. Tix: Fri night \$6, Sat afternoon \$6, Sat night \$10, Sun afternoon \$6. No phone reservations. 775-6148.

**WMPG Record Sale** March 15. Record vendors from around New England will sell records, CDs, tapes and other music related items. All genres of music will be on sale. At USM's Campus Center, Portland, from 10 am-5 pm. 780-4424.

**Portland Irish Festival** March 8-17. Portland Performing Arts' House Island Project presents its first annual celebration of Irish traditions in Maine. 601-0591.

**Women's History Month** USM presents a series of events in honor of women's history month. For more info, call 780-4862.

## art openings

**Coffee By Design** 620 Congress St., Portland. Preview show for "Fall For Art." The AIDS Project Benefit shows March 1-13. Preview reception March 6 from 5-8 pm. "Fall Where It's At: The Power of Love," an installation by Richard Lee, shows through March 1. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-8 pm, Sat 8 am-8 pm, Sun 8 am-7 pm. 772-5533.

**Davidson & Daughters** 148 High St., Portland. Opening reception for new work by Bill Irvine and Barbara Sullivan, Feb 27 from 5-8 pm. Shows through March 22. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-6 pm. 780-0766.

**Icon** 19 Mason St., Brunswick. Opening reception for new paintings by Robert Hamilton, March 1 from 4-6 pm. Shows through April 9. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 1-4 pm. 725-8157.

**Portland Museum of Art** 7 Congress Sq., Portland. Opening reception for "Celebrate Youth Art Month," more than 100 works from students statewide, Feb 28 from 5:30-8 pm. Shows through March 30. Hours: Tues, Wed, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Thurs-Fri 10 am-9 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. Admission: \$6 adults, \$5 students/seniors, \$1 youth 6-12 years. 775-6148 or 1-800-639-4067.

**now showing**

**Agape Center** 657 Congress St., Portland. "Divine Feminine in World Mythology," paintings by Sandra Stanton, shows through March 1. Hours: Mon-Fri 10-2 pm and by appt. 780-1500.

**Area Gallery** USM's Campus Center, Portland. "Mother Tongue: A Visual Dialogue," an exchange of ideas and visual responses between participants and an existing body of work, shows through Feb 27. Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-10 pm. 780-5409.

**Art Star** 578 Congress St., Portland. Works by Catherine Draper show through Feb 27. Hours: Thurs & Fri 4-7 pm, Sat noon-4 pm. 774-2097.

**Barbara's Kitchen & Cafe** 388 Cottage Rd., So. Portland. Paintings and ink drawings by D. Cavanagh show through Feb 28. 767-6313.

**Bowdoin College Museum of Art** Walker Art Building, Brunswick. The museum is open to the public free of charge. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Mon-Sun 2-5 pm. 725-3275.

**Center For Maine History** presents a three-part exhibition on the history of Maine Native American carving and basket making. "Growth Rings: 200 Years of Basketry, Carving and Wabanaki Enterprise," "Trees and Tradition: Brown Ash and Maine Native American Basketmaking" and "Spirits in the Wood: Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Root Clubs." 489 Congress St., Portland. 879-0427.

**Community Chiropractic of Maine** 222 St. John St., Portland. "Alignment," works by Dave G. Hall, Dana Nelson, Lori Austill and Marilyn Blinkhorn, shows through March 31. Hours: by appointment. 774-2663.

**Connections: Objects & Images, Inc.** 56 Maine St., Brunswick. Group show of gallery artists shows through March 29. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm. 725-1399.

**Foghorn Gallery** 4 Clinton St., Portland. International folk art, Oaxacan wood carvings, black pottery and crafts of indigenous peoples. By

appointment. 781-2563.

**Foreside Cafe** 201 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. Paintings by Kate Merrick. Ongoing. Hours: Sun-Thurs 7 am-3 pm, Fri-Sat 7 am-7 pm. 781-4931.

**Free Street Taverna** 128 Free St., Portland. Prints by Judith Clark show through March 2. Works by Aaron Saucier, Vanessa Wylie and Steven Manolopoulos show through March 2. Hours: Mon 11 am-4 pm, Tues-Sat 11 am-10 pm. 774-1114.

**Gallery Music** 21 Forest Ave., Portland. "Trees, Rocks, Water," paintings and works on paper by Lavender. Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30 am-5 pm. 775-1304.

**Granny Killams** 55 Market St., Portland. Sculptures by Stephen Pultau IV. Ongoing. For info on Granny's, call Squire Morgans at 774-5246.

**Greenhut Galleries** 146 Middle St., Portland. A group show of work by gallery artists including Connie Hayes, Glenn Renell, Alison Goodwin, Phil Barter, Alec Richardson, Sarah Knock, Ed Douglas, Heidi Gerquest and Phil Poirier, shows through March 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm. 772-2893.

**Hole in the Wall Studios** 1544 Roosevelt Trail, Raymond. A group show of gallery artists, including Cynthia Morse, Lori Austill, Evelyn Winter, Dave Hall and Lou Mastro, shows through March 31. Hours: 9:30 am-5:30 pm daily (closed Tues). 655-4952.

**ICA @ MECA** Institute of Contemporary Art, 522 Congress St., Portland. "David Ireland: An Installation and Residency Project." 775-5152.

**Java Joe's** 13 Exchange St., Portland. "Images of Cuba," photographs by Judy Bennett, shows through March 15. Hours: Mon-Thurs 7:30 am-11 pm, Fri 7:30 am-midnight, Sat 9 am-midnight, Sun 9 am-10 pm. 761-5637.

**The Jones Museum of Glass and Ceramics** Douglas Hill, Sebago. Cost: \$25. Reservations suggested. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Cost: \$5 (\$3 students). 787-3370.

**June Fitzpatrick Gallery** 112 High St., Portland. A group show by gallery artists: William Manning, Vivien Russe, Noriko Sakanishi, Greg Parker, Jim Wilkinson and Richard Wilson, shows through March 1. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm. 772-1961.

**Kalidoscope Gallery** Route 25, Gorham. Fine art, pottery, sculpture, jewelry and crafts by local artists. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-4 pm. 839-6926.

**Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance** 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick. The poetry quilts exhibition, shows through Feb 28. 729-6333.

**Margaret's Restaurant** 242 St. John St., Portland. Original watercolors by Bonnie Brown. Ongoing. Hours: 4-11 pm daily. 874-6444.

**Front Gallery** North Yarmouth Academy, 123 Main St., North Yarmouth. "A Selection of Works: 1991-95," works by Richard Garrigus, shows through March 7. Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-4 pm. 846-9051.

**Perfetto's Restaurant** 28 Exchange St., Portland. "Almost Edible," paintings by Kate Merrick, ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sun 11 am-11 pm. 828-0001.

**Pilgrimage** 1006 Forest Ave., Portland. "Hierophanies — Receptacles of the Sacred," paintings by Bradford Fuller, shows through March 15. Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri 10 am-5 pm, Thurs 10 am-7 pm, Sat 10 am-2 pm. 878-5040.

**Portland Museum of Art** 7 Congress Sq., Portland. Hours: Tues, Wed, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Thurs-Fri 10 am-9 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. Admission: \$6 adults, \$5 students/seniors, \$1 youth 6-12 years. Museum admission is free 5 pm every Friday evening. 775-6148 or 1-800-639-4067.

**Portland Pottery** 118 Washington Ave., Portland. Opening reception for the teapot show, March 14 from 6-8 pm. Hours: Mon-Fri 9-6 pm. 772-4334.

**Portland Public Library** 5 Monument Square, Portland. "Stone Workers of Maine," an exhibit of woodcut prints by E. Hudson Hamilton, shows through Feb 28. Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9 am-6 pm, Tues & Thurs 12-9 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm. 871-1700.

**Renaissance Antiques** 221 Commercial St., Portland. Ongoing show of works by John Dehlinger, Wilder Oaks, Terry Wolf and other Maine artists. Hours: 10 am-7 pm daily. 879-0789.

**Robert Clements Gallery** 81 West Commercial St., Portland. "The Kissing Show," a collection of 100 photos by nationally known photographers, shows through March 19. Cost: \$14. Proceeds benefit the Peabody House. 879-0042.

**Salt Gallery** Salt Center for Documentary Field Studies, 17 Pine St., Portland. Student work from the 1996 fall term shows through April 26. Hours: Wed & Fri 2-6 pm, Sat 10 am-1 pm. 761-0860.

**The Spring Point Museum** at Southern Maine Technical College, Fort Rd., So. Portland. "Portland Harbor, 1865-1900: Making a Living in Stormy Times." Ongoing. Hours: Wed-Sun 10 am-4 pm. Admission: \$2 (kids free). 799-6337.

**Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers** 415 Cumberland Ave., Portland. Aerial landscape oils and watercolors by Eric Hopkins show through March 15. Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am-5 pm. 774-3791.

**Three Fish Gallery** 377 Cumberland Ave., Portland. Sculpture and prints by the Maine College of Art

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

## Sportland D. J. BARRY MOTHESE

### Stoned in Belfast

There are plenty of good reasons to visit Belfast in the winter, although many, like the cozy, antique bar at Darby's, have nothing to do with the subject area this space proposes to cover. One does, though — the Belfast Curling Club, a unique sports and social club of friendly, enthusiastic, sweater-clad curling fanatics.

Curling — an ancient target game like shuffleboard, bocce or lawn bowls — was apparently invented by 16th-century Scots who bowled natural stones across frozen ponds and lochs. The curling movements of those old stones across the ice gave the game its name. Scottish immigrants brought the game to North America in the 18th century, and it spread across the northern U.S. and Canada. More than a million people curl in Canada, where the sport is taught to children in schools, and clubs exist in nearly every town. There are an estimated 25,000 curlers in the U.S. and about 120 curling clubs.

"It's a game of skill and friendliness and goodwill and sportsmanship," said Marietta Ramsdell, current president of the Belfast club. Ramsdell, 62, joined the club seven years ago with her husband, Bob, after they retired from teaching in New Jersey and relocated to Searsport. "We had heard about the curling club and both liked sports and we were immediately hooked. It's a lifetime sport. We took it up at a late age and have become fairly capable curlers. It's not something where you have to be young and energetic. You just have to be comfortable on ice."

Curling today is played mostly indoors on long, narrow lanes of manicured ice called sheets. Players take turns sliding 42-pound granite disks with top handles called stones down a 140-foot lane toward a bull's-eye target at the other end. The object is to keep your team's stones closest to the center of the target. Other players wielding brooms or brushes stand in front of the target area and sweep frost and moisture from in front of the moving stone to help it into a prime finishing spot. This frantic, but crucial, sweeping has been part of the game from the beginning, and is one of the most distinctive motions in all of sport.

Indoor curling has been going on in Belfast since 1959. Led by founder and first president Dr. Norman Cobb, along with friends from the St. Stephen, New Brunswick Curling Club, volunteers built the club on donated land and made 5,000 cinderblocks for the building. In 1962, the club razed the original two-sheet ice house and built a three-sheet facility, which now provides curling action for more than 100 members, ranging in age from 20 to 75.

Over the years there have been a handful of curlers from the Portland area active in the club. In 1994, there was even a "paper club" in Portland — a club that didn't have its own facility, but had officers and competed as a group in big tournaments known as "bonspiels." At the moment, said Ramsdell, there are no Portlanders on the Belfast club's official membership rolls.

"We'd love it if something could get going in Portland," said Ramsdell. "Right now we have to travel four hours [south to Boston or north into Canada] to curl at another club. It would be great to have a curling club in Portland." The cost to build a new three-sheet icehouse would be about \$600,000, Ramsdell said, although many newer clubs and curlers rent hockey rinks and set up temporary sheets to get started.

Even though it is somewhat isolated, the Belfast Curling Club maintains ties to the greater world of official curlingdom. The club belongs to two of curling's parent organizations, the Grand National Curling Club and the United States Curling Association, which trains instructors, officials and competitive teams. Curling will make its debut as a full-medal men's and women's sport at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Along with a steady run of in-house weeknight leagues and tournaments, the Belfast Curling Club hosts four major "bonspiels" every winter that draw curlers from all over New England and Canada for competitive curling, home-cooked meals and lots of socializing (the club has its own bar). There are two major weekend events coming up this month: the Ladies' Pine Tree, March 7-9, and the Wood Open, a mixed family event, March 21-23. The club also runs youth leagues and beginners' clinics to help introduce newcomers to the sport.

"There is no investment to make," said Ramsdell, "just warm clothing and rubber-soled shoes."

J. Barry Mothes is a writer living in Portland.

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**Congress Street Minutes** ANNIE SEIKONIA

**Momentism and Introspectivism**

"There is no forbidden object [for the introspectivist], no definite, dogmatic form, no impossible connections. Therefore, he is simultaneously at the Ganges and at the Hudson, in the year 1922 and in the year when Tiglathpileser conquered and terrorized a world. Therefore, the introspectivist is chaotic and kaleidoscopic." — Arn Glantz-Leyles, 1922

Summers in Maine have turned me into a **momentist**, winters into an **introspectivist**. Momentism, a movement which to my knowledge I singlehandedly invented and developed, has to do with the yearning and appreciation for exalted and intense "perfect moments." The introspectivist movement, on the other hand, was an obscure, "radically experimental modernism" developed by **Yiddish poets** in New York in the 1920s. The idea was to view everything as personal and inherited, including wars, revolutions, racism, religion, elections and **linguistics**.

Maine, with its perfect summers and SAD winters, is the perfect bioregion in which to experience both of these highly personal "movements of the **psyche**." (As inventor of the momentist movement, I consider myself an authority on the subject, and I doubt that the inventors of introspectivism would object to my spontaneous and occasionally irreverent interpretations of their weltanschauung.) Summer is so radically different in character, environment and attitude from winter that it necessitates a certain cosmic psychic split, a veritable schizophrenia of being.

The pursuit of momentism is perfect for the long, extended moments spent absorbing a hot, lazy sun on a Sunday that seems to last forever. Come May, people both emerge and become paradoxically **invisible** as they instantly recede from view the minute they arrive in our consciousness, erased by the overwhelming scent of apple blossoms and the unaccustomed feel of a warm, gentle breeze. What I call **'The Sun Worship Phase'** begins as early as April and lasts well into September. **'The Dark Side of the Moon Phase,'** on the other hand, comes out of the realization that one can no longer bask outdoors, and that the day begins to wane as early as 4 p.m., bringing with it a **dark gloom** and chill that starts in October and lasts well into March. What better time than summer to appreciate the **illusion** of eternal languor? What better time than winter to dwell on the harsh realities of our own **mortality**?

Momentism and introspectivism provide a universality, as well as a justification, for Mainers' legendary absorption with thrift, hardship and **minutiae**. Diehard introspectivists have entire winters to actively contemplate the rich landscapes of their inner worlds while passively absorbing the complexities of the larger world via newspapers, magazines, television and the **Internet**. At the same time, we have such an intimate relationship with the volatile changes of weather that we rarely take for granted either the power of a blizzard or the delicate translucence of a fine spring day. This does not make us aesthetically superior, but it can make us **hypersensitive**.

Portlanders have great tolerance and love of **eccentricity**, which perhaps explains why it attracts more than its share of colorful characters (introspectivism taken to its logical extreme?). The true introspectivist does not devalue these inhabitants, but embraces them as reflective **shards** of his or her own multifaceted psyche. The sight of the denizens of Congress Street making their way through the world inspires both compassion and anger, connecting us to a larger sense of the **ordered instability** at play in the world.

Portland has many facets; at times it feels like an ancient city, at others like the modern **locus** it is, complete with rising pollution and **polyglot** population. Some people, buoyed by visions and dreams, **ascend**; others, unable to escape the harsh realities of garbage and poverty, **founder**. Wanderers search their souls for signs of wisdom, madness and **poetry**. Momentism and introspectivism can be appreciated simultaneously within the smoldering hour of a sunset on the Western Prom, which will never come again but exists **forever**, suspended within the matrix of torrential rains, hot summer days, beaches, bakeries and bean factories that is Portland.

Annie Seikonia is a local writer and amateur semiotician.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Sculpture Department show through March 26. Hours: Sat. Sun. & Mon 2-5 pm. 773-4773.  
**USM Osher Map Library** 314 Forest Ave., Portland. "The Cartographic Creation of New England" shows through April 27. Hours: Wed 1-4:30 pm and 6-8 pm. Thurs & Sat from 9 am-12:30 pm. 780-4850.  
**Will's Restaurant** 78 Island Ave., Peak's Island. Paintings by Lenny Hutch. Ongoing. 766-3322.

## smarts events

**Booksigning** Feb 28. Paul Watkins, critically acclaimed author of "Archangel," will sign copies of his six books. At Greater Bookland, 220 Maine Mall Rd. So. Portland, from 7-8 pm. Free. 874-2300.

**A Celebration of Root Club** March 1. with Joan Lester, curator of Native American Art at the Children's Museum in Boston, and Stan Neptune, Penobscot carver and 1996 recipient of a Master Artist and Apprentice award from the Maine Arts Commission. At the Maine History Gallery, 489 Congress St., Portland, from noon-4 pm. Cost: \$2 (\$1 kids). 879-0427.

**"Community Technology For Our Future"** March 6. The Westbrook Technology Committee holds a dialogue about new communications technologies and the opportunities they may provide for the Westbrook community. At the Westbrook Community Hospital Solarium, at 7 pm. 854-0810.

**Developmental Screenings** Child Development Services of Cumberland County offers screenings and free evaluations for kids ages birth-5 who reside in Cumberland County. If you have concerns about your child's development, please call 874-8062.

**Drop-in Discussion Group** for married/gay/bisexual/questioning men, to talk about coming out, dating, relationships and safer sex. Free and open to all men who have sex with men. Wed 7-9 pm, through April 9. At the AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th floor, Portland. 774-5877.

**Film Workshop** March 1. The Maine Film Commission holds a workshop for production assistants. At High Output, 101 John Roberts Rd., #17, So. Portland, from 10 am-2 pm. Cost: \$10. 287-5703.

**Matlovich Society** An educational organization of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and friends meets the second and fourth Thurs of the month. Feb 27: "Finding a Job: Resumes, Interviews and G/L/B/T," with Larry Bliss director of USM's career services office. At Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, from 7:30-9 pm. 761-4380.

**New Ventures: Entrepreneurship Training For Women** A free 10-week comprehensive business training for potential women business owners. Offered by the Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community. April 1-June 5, Tues and Thurs from 9:30 am-5 pm, at the South Portland Center of MCWWC, 175 Main St., So. Portland. Application deadline is March 14. 1-800-442-2092.

**"Pollution: Power, Politics and Propaganda"** Feb 28. Adrienne Anderson gives a talk on the use of public relations techniques and communications media to attack and undermine the credibility of environmental activists. At Luther Bonney Auditorium, USM Campus, Portland, at 3:30 pm. 780-4283.

**Study in Italy or Brazil** AYUSA International, a non-profit high school exchange organization, offers scholarships of over \$5,200 to Italy or Brazil for the 1997/98 academic year or semester. Applications must be postmarked by March 15. For more info, contact Carissa H. Boudiz at 1-800-727-4540.

**Watersheds Steward Program** Portland Water District provides and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension offer a community service program to train watershed stewards. The 8-week program begins Feb 27 and meets once a week at Jordan Small School, Raymond. Free. Limited to 15 participants. For more info, call Dick Brzozowski or Tammy Berry at 1-800-287-1471.

**Yarmouth Historical Society** "An Air of Progress: Life in Yarmouth 1890-1930," an exhibition exploring the changing lifestyles of Yarmouth residents at the turn-of-the-century. At the Museum of Yarmouth History, Merrill Memorial Library, Main St., Yarmouth. Hours: Tues-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm. Free. 846-6259.

**The AIDS Project** seeks volunteers for its 11th annual "Spring For Life" art auction, March 15, to work 3-5 hour shifts from 9 am-10:30 pm. At the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Call Jill Tacy at 774-6877.

**Alpha One** a nonprofit organization committed to creating opportunities for people with disabilities to live independently, seeks volunteers to cover the phones and greet people when they come in. Up to 10 hours a week. For more info, call Judy or Dot at 767-2189.

**Community Health Services** 901 Washington Ave., Portland, seeks someone with minimal computer skills who enjoys playing detective to put together a resource manual for the Mental Health Department. Help with correspondence and clerical tasks is also needed. Also, the Visiting Friends Program always needs volunteers. For more info call Dolores Vail at 1-800-479-4331 or 775-7231.

**Daffodil Days** March 20, 21 & 22. The American Cancer Society presents its annual springtime daffodil sale fundraiser. If you are interested in volunteering or ordering flowers, call 1-800-464-3102.

**Eduardo Mariscal** is looking for volunteers to help with his next dance-theater production. For more info, call 871-9056.

**Drivers Needed** to volunteer a few hours a week giving rides to seniors. For more info, contact the Independent Transportation Network, 309 Cumberland Ave., Portland. The ITN is flexible around volunteers' schedules. 828-8608.

**Radiate Warmth By Volunteering** RSVP, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program for people 55 and older, offers meaningful volunteer opportunities to warm your heart. For more info, call Priscilla at 775-6503.

**Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine** in Brunswick offers services for survivors of sexual assault and their significant others. Volunteers are needed to staff their 24-hour hotline, offer follow-up and referral services and advocacy through medical, legal and judicial appointments. Must be caring, dependable and over 18. No prior experience necessary. Training is a 30-hour program and begins March 10. For more info, call Joanne at 725-2181.

**"Ski to Cure Diabetes"** March 7. Help raise money for diabetes research by gathering pledges and skiing Sugarloaf/USA. To register, call the American Diabetes Association at 1-800-870-8000.

**"Ski the Night for Sight"** March 8. Support the Maine Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired by gathering pledges and skiing Shawnee Peak in Bridgton. To join, collect at least \$25 in pledges, plus a \$10 registration fee. To register, call 774-6273.

**Volunteer Drive** March 3. Friends of Feral Felines, a local cat rescue group, holds an open forum for volunteers to find out how they can get involved with helping cats. At the Public Safety Building, 2nd floor, 109 Middle St., Portland, at 6:30 pm. 775-6684 ext. 80.  
year. 1-800-848-2121.

## health events/new

**La Leche League of Yarmouth** provides info and aid to pregnant and breastfeeding women through telephone help, monthly meetings and a lending library. Next meeting: March 4 at the First Universalist Church, 146 Main St., Yarmouth, at 9:30 am. Call Ashley at 773-6985 or Marcia at 797-5121.

**Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine** in Brunswick will be offering a daytime support group for women survivors of childhood sexual assault beginning March 20. For more info, call Joanne or Sue at 725-2181.

## etc events

**Drop-in Sports** The YWCA offers drop-in women's volleyball Fridays from 7-10 pm (\$4/\$3 members); and drop-in basketball for men, women and students (\$4/\$3 members). At the YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, 874-1130.

**Public Breakfast** March 1. All you can eat. At Tuttle Road United Methodist Church, 52 Tuttle Rd., Cumberland, from 7:30-9:30 am. Cost: \$3.50 (\$1.75 kids). 829-3766.

**Public Supper** March 1. At the American Legion Hall, Route 100, Gray, from 5-6 pm. Cost: \$4.50 (\$1.50 kids). 657-3614.

**Roast Beef Supper** March 1. At St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 678 Washington Ave., Portland. Seatings at 5, 6 & 7 pm. Cost: \$6.50. 775-1179.

**Russian Exchange** Portlanders interested in becoming part of the ninth annual visit to Portland's sister city in June, should contact Edna Ellis at 767-2260.

**USM Softball Clinics** The USM Softball program holds clinics March 15, for grades 3-6 from 8:30 am-noon, and March 16, for grades 7-12 from 8:30 am-4 pm. At Hill Gymnasium, USM Campus, Gorham. Cost: March 15, \$30 (\$25 advance); March 16, \$55 (\$50 advance). 780-5430.

## Bet WeeN the LiNeS

### Northwoods showdown

In Paul Watkins' sixth and newest book, "Archangel" (Picador, \$13), set in the old-growth forests of northern Maine, a modern archangel named Adam Gabriel heralds the Last Judgment, not with the traditional trumpet, but with spikes that he drives into hundreds of ancient pines to stop the clear-cutting. Watkins spins a powerful tale as he juxtaposes nature's grandeur against the wild and unpredictable — sometimes brute — aspects of human nature.



Don't hate me because I'm young and talented:  
Paul Watkins

The story opens with Jonah Mackenzie, lumber baron heir, chain-sawing a massive pine on a cold December night. Mackenzie tries to jump out of the path of the falling tree, but his heel catches in the snow. Sprawled on the ground, he watches the tree as if it were toppling in slow motion — "it seemed to him as if he had all the time in the world to know what was about to happen." The tree breaks Mackenzie's leg and pins him to the ground. He knows he'll freeze to death before help comes, so he strips a small branch from the tree, jams it between his teeth, picks up his chain saw, yanks the cord, and cuts off his shattered leg. He fashions a tourniquet with his leather belt and crawls, elbow over elbow, a quarter mile down to the main road. All this in the first seven pages!

Ten years later, in a secret deal, the government sells Mackenzie logging rights to 50,000 acres of the same forest that took his leg, the only hitch being that he has just nine months to get the timber out before the area is to be declared a permanent wilderness preserve. Mackenzie thinks the idea ludicrous: "By the time I've finished with the Algonquin, there won't be any wilderness left to preserve." But the money is good, and he can't resist the challenge of clearing 50,000 acres of Maine's last vestiges of old growth in so short a time. Adam Gabriel, of course, has other ideas.

Watkins, who lives, teaches and writes in Princeton, N.J., is a brilliant writer. At age 32, he has already published six books. His first, "Night Over Day Over Night," which he published at the tender age of 23, is a breathtaking novel about a 15-year-old German soldier making his first — and Germany's last — stand at the Battle of the Bulge in 1944. It was nominated for the Booker Prize, England's most prestigious literary award. Critics raved about the work, noting the book was an amazing tour-de-force no matter who wrote it; as the work of a 23-year-old American, though, as one critic put it, "It is an amazement."

I asked him in a recent telephone interview what it was that struck him about Maine that he would create "Archangel." "I've been coming to Jackman to hike every summer since 1983," he said. "I love the impenetrability of the woods and the sense of permanence there. Man's role seemed so insignificant, until one day when I happened into a clearing that some human had razed. I knew I had to write about my feelings, my experience. There is no right story here. I know how important logging is to Maine's economy. No one can tell a right story, but the telling itself often brings you closer to the truth."

Watkins stocks his story with solid characters who must determine what is right or wrong and make choices. Madeleine Cody, the young editor of the *Forest Sentinel*, calls herself an environmental activist; Jonah Mackenzie considers Cody and her watchdog newspaper "his own personal plague of locusts." The loggers, all of whom have lived in Abenaki Junction (the fictionalization of Jackman) for generations, philosophically side with Cody; they love their wilderness, but are torn because economically they know no way other than logging to survive. Adam Gabriel's father, for example, was Mackenzie's foreman until he was fired for opposing the clear-cutting. Gabriel's convinced it will take more than reasoned editorials to stop Mackenzie from destroying the forest, and he's prepared to do whatever it takes to stop him.

There are many old ghosts exorcised here — the loss of the old forest, the disappearance of a way of life, among others — as the characters come to grips with the loss of their/our wilderness. Watkins reveals remarkable insights through the stories he shares. "I never know where my stories come from," he said, "but I always know when they have arrived." We can only hope they keep arriving for a long time to come.

■ ELIZABETH ISELE

Paul Watkins will hold a booksigning Feb. 28 at Greater Bookland, 220 Maine Mall Rd., So. Portland, at 7 p.m. Free. 773-4238.

Women are missing from history...



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**BLACK TIE.** 870 Broadway, South Portland. Discover South Portland's most interesting lunch spot! Featuring hearty soups and sandwiches, healthy salads, entrees and fantastic bakery items. Daily specials - always! Dine-in or take-out. Open Monday-Friday 7:30-3:00, 799-7119.

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**SMILING HILL FARM ICE CREAM & SANDWICH SHOPPE.** Enjoy a leisurely lunch on the farm. Over-stuffed sandwiches, fresh garden salads, and farm-made chowders, chilis and soups in season. Daily 11-2. And, for dessert, choose from over 40 flavors of ice cream and non-fat frozen yogurts. Ice cream pies and cakes, frappes, floats, sundaes, cones, and a tempting sundae bar with over 20 mouth-watering toppings. Daily 11am-7pm. Only minutes from the Maine Mall and Downtown Portland. 781 County Road (Route #22), Westbrook. 775-4818.

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**FEDERAL SPICE.** The original Four-Star wrap-concept restaurant serving the best in wraps filled with multi-ethnic and heart-healthy ingredients from the Pacific Rim, Caribbean, the Continent, and the Americas. All items under \$6! Everything available to go. Limited radius delivery 11:30am-2pm M-F. \$2 Micro Pints after 5 pm! Open Mon-Sat 11am-9pm. 225 Federal St., Portland. 774-6404.

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**ORIENTAL TABLE.** Serving reasonably priced lunch specials & dinner with a variety of appetizer & entree selections including seafood & vegetarian dishes. Entrees range from \$4.25 - \$10.75. Smoking & non-smoking. Featured in Maine Sunday Telegram's Taste & Tell section. Gift Certificates Available. Hrs. Sun 12-9pm, Mon-Thurs. 11:30-9pm, Fri & Sat 11:30-10pm. 106 Exchange St. 775-3388.

**FRENCH**  
**LE BISTRO DU LAC.** Frank & Jane Leconte invite you into their historic Raymond home for home cooking from the heart of France. Thursday nights Crêpe Menu. Sunday nights Roast Leg of Lamb. Serving dinner Thursdays through Sundays, 5-9pm. Reservations recommended. 207-655-4100. Visa, MC, AMEX. Corner of Rtes 302 & 85, Raymond.

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**THE AUDUBON ROOM.** Ocean views, elegant & intimate atmosphere, fine dining featuring New American Cuisine. House specialties include Maine Lobster Bisque, Grilled Seafoods, Vegetarian Pastas, Pan-seared Crabcakes & Rack of Lamb. Sinful, handmade desserts may include Pomegranate Sorbet, Cappuccino Ice Cream or White Chocolate Macadamia Nut Tart. Open daily: breakfast, lunch, dinners from 6:00pm. Reservations recommended. Off premise catering. MC, VISA, AMEX. Discover. Inn by the Sea, Cape Elizabeth. 767-0888.

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**BELLA BELLA.** Now open for lunch Tues-Fri 11:30am-2pm. Dinner Tues-Sun from 5pm. Now accepting dinner reservations. Specializing in foods from the countryside of Spain, Italy, Greece & Morocco. This month's menu features fall vegetable ragout & a traditional Spanish paella. Vegetarian dishes available for lunch & dinner. Visa, MC & checks accepted. Validated parking. Next to PMA. 606 Congress St. 780-1260/828-1550.

**CAFE ALWAYS.** 47 Middle St., 774-9399. Casually elegant atmosphere and daily changing menu of Modern American Cuisine with "no food rules" such as center cut pork chops with pecan orange barbe

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**SOUTHERN**  
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Southern Fried Catfish w/Corn  
Fritters, Baked Meatloaf w/  
Cornbread Stuffing, Homemade  
Rolls & Cornbread

Call for take out!  
Hours Mon - Sat 5-9

cue sauce and sweet potato salad. Also New York sirloin with Siltan - sun dried tomato butter. Open for dinner Wed. - Sun. starting at 5pm, and Sunday brunch 10am-3pm. Gift certificates and catering available. Voted "Most Romantic Restaurant" by Casco Bay Weekly. Free parking in the lot adjacent to the restaurant. CC, LL, R.

**GOOD TABLE.** Casual. Tasty weekend brunch. Full bar. Featuring seafood, barbecue & Greek. Cracklin' woodstove, old jazz music & a good looking staff. Honest food & honest prices. Open Sunday 8am-3pm, Tuesday-Friday 11am-9pm, Saturday 8am-9pm, closed Mondays. MC/Visa. Parking. Rte 77, Cape Elizabeth. 799-4663.

**GREAT LOST BEAR.** Full bar - now featuring 50 beers on tap. Extensive menu... sandwiches, soups, salads, platters. Lunch or dinner in the mysterious Woodfords area. MC, Visa, Amex accepted. Parking. 540 Forest Ave. Portland. 772-0300.

**HUGO'S BISTRO.** Dinner Tuesday - Saturday from 5-15. Innovative menu changes every four weeks, featuring fresh seafood and interesting vegetarian dishes. Provocative atmosphere. Parking. Reservations accepted. Major credit cards accepted. Major credit cards accepted. 88 Middle Street, Portland. 774-8538.

**HUMMINGBIRD FARM.** Dine in casual elegance in a setting Martha Stewart can only dream about. Breakfast, lunch, and candlelight dinners in a charming country Victorian home. Wide variety of gourmet dishes changes daily (no printed menus). Then browse the gift shop, and pamper yourself at their contemporary hair salon. Breakfast and lunch, Wed. through Sun., 8-2; Tea and Temptations, 2-5; Dinner by reservation only. Fri. and Sat., 5-8. Located a few minutes off Exit 4, 230 Rte. 35, in the Village of Goodwins Mills, Lyman. Dinner and Crafts, 499-0149; Salon, 499-7655.

**KATAHDIN.** Daily Blue Plate Specials \$9.95 and unpretentious fare like Buckwheat Pasta. Homemade. Good Cookin'. Monday-Thursday 5-10 p.m., Friday & Saturday 5-11 p.m. Corner of Spring and High St. Portland.

**PERFETTO.** 28 Exchange St., Portland. 828-0001. Funky twist of W.O.W. mixed from flavors of the entire Mediterranean region by the new chef formerly of prestigious San Francisco restaurants. Dinner entrees like oven roasted portobello stuffed with North African spiced cous-cous to fresh loose seafood ravioli range from \$12-\$16. our commitment to freshness and local fare allows for a changing menu and daily specials. Experience an approachable wine list and our full bar. Lunch Monday-Friday 11:30-3:00 and dinner begins at 5:30 Monday-Saturday. Celebrate our new Sunday brunch from 10-3 with a homemade shrimp bloody mary.

**TABITHA JEANS.** 94 Free St., 780-8966. Maine's most cosmopolitan restaurant offering an eclectic menu with an emphasis on seafood and vegetarian dishes made with the freshest ingredients, friendly attentive service, an extensive wine list. 16 wines by the glass. Smoke free. Parking.

**ZEPHYR GRILL** is a brand new eatery filled with art objects, large tables and lots of light, airy space. The cooks are founders of such notable joints as Alan's Incredible Edibles, Alberta's and The Good Egg Cafe. Here, they're taking that joy of cooking to a new place. Check it out. Dinner 5-10. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. All major credit cards. Free parking at Joe's Smoke Shop. 653 Congress St., Portland. 828-4033.

**WOOD GRILL**  
**RACHEL'S WOOD GRILL.** Come enjoy inventive cuisine delicately seasoned with wood smoke and cooked the way God intended, over flame. Whether you're looking for a quick but memorable lunch or

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inspired dinner fare served in an elegantly unpretentious atmosphere. Stop on by, you won't be disappointed. Serving lunch & dinner. Beer & Wine available. Accepting MC & Visa. 90 Exchange St. (Upper Exchange) 774-1192.

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**FREE STREET TAVERNA.** A local eatery staffed by very happy people. Greek family recipes mingle with old American favorites. Choose nonsmoking dining upstairs in a Greek inspired atmosphere or the taverna downstairs. Live music and/or events nightly. MF Happy Hour \$2 Drafts 4-7pm. Things are happening at the Taverna; where have you been? MC/Visa/AMEX accepted. 125 Free St., Portland. 774-1114.

**GOURMET TAKE-OUT**  
**PORTLAND WINE & CHEESE.** Delicious homemade soups and sandwiches, wines, champagnes and cheeses. Large selection of gourmet foods. Gift and picnic baskets. Party platters, catering and deliveries. MC, Visa and Amex accepted. 168 Middle St., Portland. 772-4647.

**ITALIAN**  
**ANTHONY'S ITALIAN KITCHEN.** Voted 1996 "Best Lunch under \$5" and "Best Dinner under \$10." Beer and wine available. Open 7 nights 'til 9pm. 151 Middle St., Portland. 774-8668.

**FRESH MARKET PASTA.** Voted "Best homemade pastas and sauces" in Portland 3 years running. Open for lunch, dinner. Italian wine and beers. Espresso. Cappuccino. Desserts. Bring the family! MC, Visa and Amex accepted. 43 Exchange St. 60 Market St. Portland. 773-7146.

**BAR-B-QUE**  
**NORM'S BAR BQ.** "Portland's Best New Restaurant" featuring Norm's Wicked Good Sauce, Smoked Ribs, Fried Chicken, Black Bean Soup, BBQ Sandwiches, Catfish and daily Tapas. Beer & Wine available. Lunch and Dinner Tues-Thur 12-10, Fri & Sat 12-11, Sun 3-9, Closed Mondays. No Credit Cards. 43 Middle St., Portland. 207-774-6711.

**MEXICAN**  
**GRANNY'S BURRITOS.** 10 Exchange Street Mall. 761-0751. Preparing all of your Mexican favorites: Burritos, Quesadillas, Nachos & more.

**IGUANA BAY MEXICAN RESTAURANT.** Exciting Tex-Mex/Southwestern menu in a tropical Mexico setting. Great margaritas, specialty tequilas, and terrific appetizers. Happy hour Mon-Sat from 4-6pm with free sampler buffet. Sunday brunch 11am-2pm. Open every day 11am-11pm. MC, VISA, AMEX, Discover, Diners Club. 196 US Rte 1, Falmouth at the Portland Athletic Club. 781-5308.

**SOUTHWESTERN**  
**ZUNI.** Southwestern to Caribbean cuisine. Great food, outstanding value, ever changing menu. Fresh squeezed fruit drinks. Smoke-free environment. Open for Dinner 7 nights. MC, VISA and AMEX. 21 Pleasant Street, Portland. 774-5260.

**ICE CREAM / DESSERTS**  
**O'S ICE CREAM.** Come get your licks in at Portland's own homemade super premium ice cream shop. All ice cream is made on the premises - with over 100 varieties of ice cream to choose from (available on a rotating basis) there is always a new taste sensation to try. Baked goods, other inspired desserts, Green Mountain Coffee, cappuccino and espresso are also available. Come relax in a warm, friendly atmosphere. Open at 7:30am Mon-Fri for breakfast. Open til 9:00pm Sun-Thurs, til 10:00pm Fri & Sat. 505 Fore St., Portland 773-7017.

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**German Buffet**  
Tuesday, March 4th

Featuring a wide variety of your favorites including knockwurst, bratwurst, weinerschnitzel & German chocolate cake.

And if someone looks your way and says, "Ich möchte das Salz bitte," do them a favor and pass the salt.

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from the ashes of  
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to the triumph of love  
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# movies

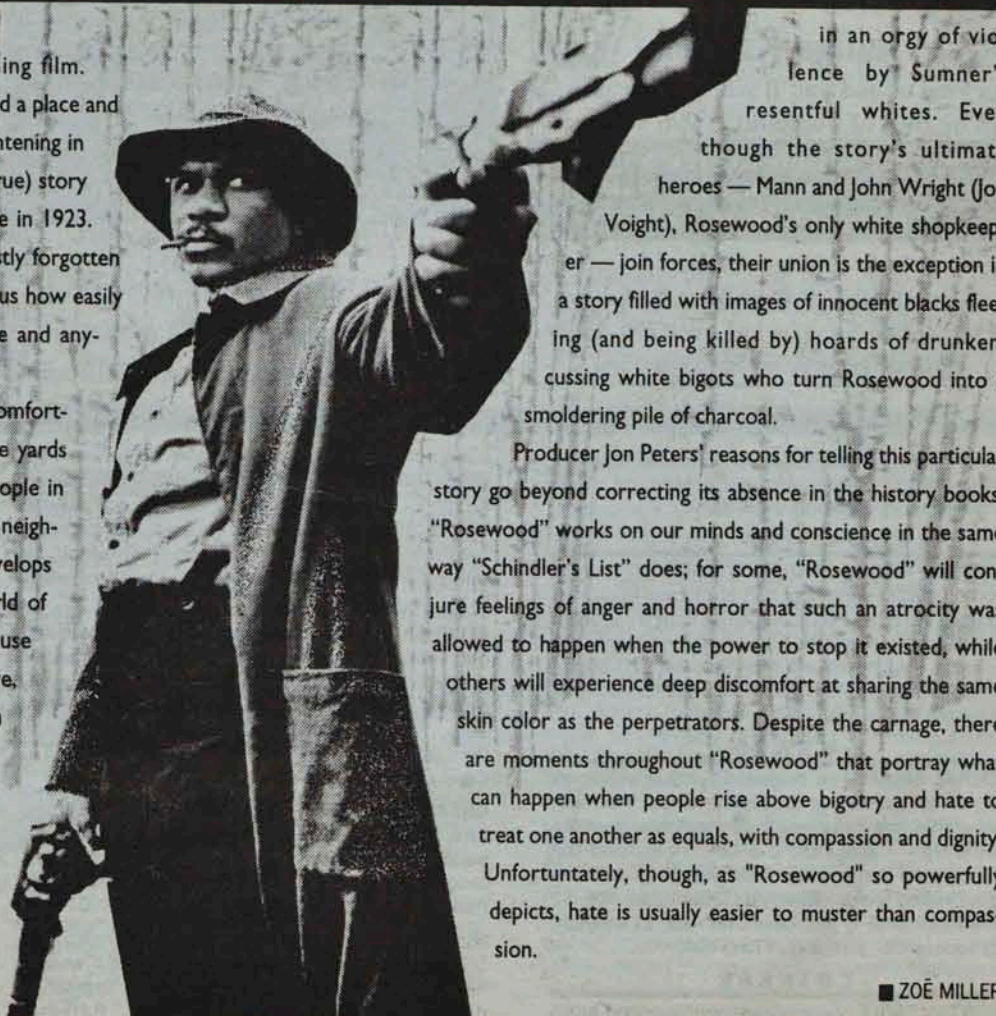
## Review

"Rosewood," directed by John Singleton. Rated R. At Hoyts Clark's Pond, 333 Clark's Rd., So. Portland, 879-1511, and Flagship Cinemas, 206 U.S. Rt. 1, Falmouth, 781-5616.

"Rosewood" is a beautiful and frightening film. Beautiful in its rich rendering of a time and a place and the colorful people who occupied it, frightening in the gravity with which it conveys the horrific (and true) story of a small Florida town destroyed by racial violence in 1932. By providing such a well-drawn portrait of this mostly forgotten chapter of American history, "Rosewood" reminds us how easily prejudice can snowball into destruction, anywhere and any time.

In the all-black town of Rosewood, families live comfortably in their own houses; children play safely in the yards and look forward to bright futures. Most of the people in Rosewood, in fact, are better-off than their white neighbors in Sumner, the next town over. The story develops slowly, drawing us in to the idyllic Rosewood world of the Carrier family, which lives in a well-furnished house with a piano in the dining room. On New Year's Eve, they befriend a handsome stranger named Mr. Mann (Ving Rhames), a World War I vet with a pocket full of cash and a hankering to find a home. He and the Carriers hit it off; Mann begins to fall in love with one of the Carrier daughters. Life is sweet.

But life sours when a white woman from Sumner claims a black man attacked her, and Mann becomes the prime suspect. Her accusation results



■ ZOË MILLER

in an orgy of violence by Sumner's resentful whites. Even though the story's ultimate heroes — Mann and John Wright (Jon Voight), Rosewood's only white shopkeeper — join forces, their union is the exception in a story filled with images of innocent blacks fleeing (and being killed by) hordes of drunken, cussing white bigots who turn Rosewood into a smoldering pile of charcoal. Producer Jon Peters' reasons for telling this particular story go beyond correcting its absence in the history books. "Rosewood" works on our minds and conscience in the same way "Schindler's List" does; for some, "Rosewood" will conjure feelings of anger and horror that such an atrocity was allowed to happen when the power to stop it existed, while others will experience deep discomfort at sharing the same skin color as the perpetrators. Despite the carnage, there are moments throughout "Rosewood" that portray what can happen when people rise above bigotry and hate to treat one another as equals, with compassion and dignity. Unfortunately, though, as "Rosewood" so powerfully depicts, hate is usually easier to muster than compassion.

## now playing

**ABSOLUTE POWER** The latest effort from actor and cool-tempered director Clint Eastwood is a thriller about the cover-up following a murder close to the president. Starring Ed Wood, Judy Davis, Scott Glenn, Melora Hardin and Gene Hackman as commander in chief. **BEAUTICIAN AND THE BEAST** Fran Drescher takes her "Nanny" highjinx on the road as a beautician from Queens who finds herself tutoring the kids of an Eastern European dictator (Timothy Dalton). **DANTE'S PEAK** Pierce Brosnan is dull and Linda Hamilton is wasted in this dud of a disaster flick, about a reawakened volcano in the Pacific Northwest. The special effects, which looked so cool in previews, fizzle. Reviewed 2/13/97.

**DONNIE BRASCO** Al Pacino mentors young Donnie Brasco (Johnny Depp), unaware that he's taking an FBI agent behind the mob's curtain. Brasco's loyalty to the badge is weakened by six years as Pacino's right-hand man. Based on a true story.

**THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK** The second and darkest chapter in George Lucas' revamped masterpiece. You'll meet Yoda, Jaba the Hutt and find out some very interesting things about Luke's family tree.

**THE ENGLISH PATIENT** Based on Michael Ondaatje's acclaimed novel, the film traces two love stories, one in late-'30s Cairo between a count (Ralph Fiennes) and a British aristocrat's wife (Kristin Scott Thomas), the other in mid-'40s Italy between a Canadian nurse (Juliette Binoche) and an Indian minesweeper (Naveen Andrews).

**EVERYONE SAYS I LOVE YOU** Drew Barrymore heads an all-star cast of uncharacteristic crooners in Woody Allen's first musical comedy. Also starring Goldie Hawn, Julia Roberts, Tim Roth, Billy Crudup, Natalie Portman and Edward Norton.

**FIERCE CREATURES** The crew from "A Fish Called Wanda" returns for a reunion film, but it should've stayed at home. Even the best efforts of Kevin Kline and Michael Palin can't save this wretched turkey. Reviewed 1/30/97. **FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN** After watching the incredible true story of the 10th Mountain Division, the World War II-era skiing soldiers, you'll never feel the same about strapping on your boards. Packed with archival footage, the film tells the stories of the troops, through the war and beyond. **FOOLS RUSH IN** Salma Hayek and Matthew Perry play a Vegas dancer and a commitment-shy entrepreneur who feel compelled to marry after a fateful one-night-stand that leaves Hayek pregnant.

**JERRY MAGUIRE** Writer-director Cameron Crowe offers us the story of a 30-something sports agent (Tom Cruise) who gets his butt fired for taking the moral highground, but who manages to find his way to the top nonetheless.

**MARS ATTACKS!** Tim Burton ("A Nightmare Before Christmas") has concocted a spoofy, twisted, sch-fi comedy to temper the seriousness of last summer's "ID4" alien invasion. Jack Nicholson divides his talents as both the commander-in-chief and a Las Vegas real-estate hustler. Also starring Glenn Close, Michael J. Fox, Annette Bening, Sarah Jessica Parker and Martin Short.

**MARVIN'S ROOM** When Diane Keaton finds out she has leukemia, she buries the axe and calls up her estranged sister (Meryl Streep) to come take care of her. Leonardo DiCaprio plays Streep's bad-behaving son who eases the sisters' feuding. Also starring Robert De Niro as the nutty doctor.

**MICHAEL** John Travolta plays another "touched" individual in this feel-good story about an everyday angel. William Hurt is the tabloid reporter who wants the real scoop. **MICHAEL COLLINS** Liam Neeson carries this 1920s biopic about the Irish

icon who built the I.R.A. and helped Ireland win its independence. Director Neil Jordan ("The Crying Game") keeps the pace brisk, painting the complex political and moral issues surrounding this period in Irish history in black and white. With Aidan Quinn and Julia Roberts. **MY FELLOW AMERICANS** If you're a political junkie in need of a post-election fix, then this comedy is for you. Director Peter Segal ("Tommy Boy") brings us the story of two curmudgeonly ex-presidents (Jack Lemmon and James Garner) who roadtrip to D.C. when they find out the latest president is behaving especially badly.

**PALOOKAVILLE** When you've already hit rock-bottom, is there any reason not to resort to crime as a solution? This is the dilemma faced by Sid, Russ and Jerry, the three affable losers of Alan Taylor's "Palookaville." Inspired by the short stories of Italo Calvino.

**THE PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT** Milos Forman's raucous and raunchy movie follows the transformation of Larry Flynt (Woody Harrelson) from a two-bit strip-club owner into a publisher, millionaire and First Amendment firebrand. Harrelson is so-so as Flynt, but Courtney Love is a natural as his stripper/drug addict/AIDS victim wife. Reviewed 1/16/97.

**RANSOM** Mel Gibson plays Tom Mullen, a super-successful Manhattan businessman. When his son is abducted by criminals who demand big bucks for his return, Tommy has no intention of letting them get away with it. Also starring Rene Russo, Gary Sinise and Delroy Lindo.

**THE RELIC** A murderer is lurking among the stuffed animals and petrified wood of a natural history museum. Penelope Ann Miller's fetching evolutionary biologist must join forces with a Chicago police detective (Tom Sizemore) to save her own life and get rid of the homicidal apparition.

**ROSEWOOD** Jon Voight and Ving Rhames play two men trying to save an all-black Florida town from destruction

after a white woman's accusations send tempers raging. John Singleton directs this story of tragedy and racial conflict based on real events in 1923 that have been largely omitted from history books. (Reviewed this issue). **SCREAM** Wes Craven pokes fun at his own genre in a postmodern thriller about a serial killer set in suburban California. Drew Barrymore heads up a cast of babes that includes Neve Campbell and Courtney Cox.

**SECRETS & LIES** The latest offering from English director Mike Leigh ("Naked") weaves together stories that examine the thorny triad of race, class and family. **SHINE** The true story of Australian concert pianist David Helfgott (Geoffrey Rush), who made a comeback 20 years after suffering a massive nervous breakdown. Director Scott Hicks set out to explore "a life that was on the edges of expression," and the resulting portrait of shattered artistry and triumph is both sentimental and vivid.

**SPACE JAM** Michael Jordan teams up with a bunch of Looney Tunes characters, including Bugs Bunny, in this live-action/animation comedy where Mr. Air helps save the Tunes from destruction by aliens.

**STAR WARS** Revamped and remastered, George Lucas' masterpiece returns to theaters to swallow up some more cash — or, uh, rather, to inspire a new generation of Jedi masters. The force, apparently, is still with us.

**THAT DARN CAT** Disney revisits its glory days with a remake of the 1965 Hayley Mills caper picture, about a fetching feline, her tomboy owner (Christina Ricci) and some bungling burglars. Also starring Doug E. Doug.

**VEGAS VACATION** Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) is back, and this time he's chosen the penultimate American destination: Las Vegas. Randy Quaid and the perennially toasty Beverly D'Angelo, who just seems to get better with age, are along for the ride again.

# times

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRIDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, FEB 28-MARCH 6 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

OWING TO SCHEDULING CHANGES AFTER CBW GOES TO PRESS, MOVIEGOERS ARE ADVISED TO CONFIRM TIMES WITH THEATERS.

NICKELODEON, TEMPLE AND MIDDLE STREETS, PORTLAND, 772-9751.

**MICHAEL COLLINS (R)**

12:30, 3:30 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 6:30, 9:30

**MICHAEL (PG)**

1, 4 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 7, 9:50

**MARS ATTACKS! (PG-13)**

1:10, 4:10 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 7:10

**FIERCE CREATURES (PG-13)**

10

**THE PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT (R)**

12:40, 3:40 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 6:40, 9:20

**RANSOM (R)**

12:50, 3:50 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 6:50, 9:40

**THE RELIC (R)**

9:10

**SPACE JAM (PG)**

1:10, 4:20 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 7

GENERAL CINEMAS, MAINE MALL, MAINE MALL ROAD, SO. PORTLAND, 774-1022.

**SCREAM (R)**

7:40, 9:55

**EVERYONE SAYS I LOVE YOU (R)**

1:40, 4:10, 7, 9:25

**MARVIN'S ROOM (PG-13)**

1, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45

**SECRETS & LIES (R)**

1, 4, 7, 9:55

**FOOLS RUSH IN (PG-13)**

1:30, 4, 7:30, 9:50

**DANTE'S PEAK (PG-13)**

1:40, 4:15, 7:15, 9:30

**THE BEAUTICIAN AND THE BEAST (PG)**

1, 3:15, 5:25

**STAR WARS (PG)**

1, 3:45, 7, 9:40

HOYTS CLARK'S POND, 333 CLARK'S RD., SO. PORTLAND, 879-1511.

**DONNIE BRASCO (R)**

1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:55

**THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (PG)**

12:30, 1:15, 3:20, 4, 6:30, 7, 9:15, 9:50

**ROSEWOOD (R)**

12:40, 3:30, 6:30, 9:25

**THAT DARN CAT (PG)**

1:30, 3:50, 6

**VEGAS VACATION (PG)**

1, 3, 7:30, 9:40

**SHINE (PG-13)**

5, 7:50, 10

**ABSOLUTE POWER (R)**

1:10, 4:20, 7:20, 10:05

**JERRY MAGUIRE (R)**

12:50, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30

THE MOVIES, 10 EXCHANGE ST., PORTLAND, 772-9600.

**PALOOKAVILLE (R)**

TUES 9:30

FEB 27-MARCH 4 • THURS-FRIS, 7, 9 • SAT-SUN 1, 7 • MON.

**FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN (NR)**

MARCH 1-4 • SAT-SUN 3, 5, 9 • MON-TUES 5, 6, 30, 8

FLAGSHIP CINEMAS, 206 U.S. ROUTE 1, FALMOUTH, 781-5616.

**ROSEWOOD (R)**

12:40, 3:35, 6:40, 9:30

**THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (PG)**

11:40, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50

**MARVIN'S ROOM (PG-13)**

12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:25

**DONNIE BRASCO (R)**

12:40, 3:35, 7, 9:40

**THAT DARN CAT (PG)**

1:10, 4, 6

**VEGAS VACATION (PG)**

7:50, 9:45

**SHINE (PG-13)**

1:20, 3:40, 6:55, 9:15

**ABSOLUTE POWER (R)**

12:50, 3:15, 6:45, 9:20

**DANTE'S PEAK (PG-13)**

12:55, 3:30, 7, 9:25

**STAR WARS (PG)**

12:30, 3:15, 6:45, 9:20

**THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)**

1:15, 4:30, 7:45

**JERRY MAGUIRE (R)**

9:35

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## WOMEN'S FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL PORTLAND, MAINE

### Friday Night: 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

• **Girls Town** Portland Premiere: This film by Lauren Zalaznick and Jim McKay won the Filmmaker's Trophy and Special Jury Prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival. An honest take on the powerful relationships between young women. (87 minutes)

• **Q&A with Jim McKay, director of Girls Town**

Made possible by Amaryllis and Eileen Monahan Associates.

### Saturday Afternoon: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

• **The Party Inside:** Portland filmmaker Alexandra Thompson creates an imaginary world for a young girl at Fort Williams. This delightful film sets an enchanted mood and demonstrates the power of short film. (5 minutes)

• **Speak It:** Set in Halifax, this film by Sylvia Hamilton follows black high school students as they work to establish a Cultural Awareness Youth Group. They discover the richness of their heritage and learn some of the ways they can begin to effect change. (29 minutes)

• **Hub Cap World:** This film by L.K. Nöller has received more than 20 awards at film festivals throughout the world. Set in the shadow of Manhattan, *The Village Voice* called it "An ambitious, prize-winning greaser epic." (50 minutes)

• **Q&A with L.K. Nöller, maker of Hub Cap World**

• **In the Shadow of the Stars:** An Academy Award winner for best documentary, this film by Allie Light offers a rare and privileged look into the grand world of opera, discovering, among the choristers of the San Francisco Opera Company, singers who aspire to be soloists and who dream of being stars. (90 minutes)

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### Saturday Night: 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

• **A Midwife's Tale** Portland Premiere: This film by Lauri Kahn-Leavitt and Richard P. Rogers (adapted from the Pulitzer Prize winning book) is the true story of two women, 200 years apart, linked by the diary one of them left behind. We are plunged into post-American Revolution life in a small Maine town where social and religious issues are many, and survival is a full-time job. (90 minutes)

• **Q&A with Lauri Kahn-Leavitt, writer and producer of A Midwife's Tale**

• Reception

Made possible by Coastal Women's Healthcare and Videoport. Reception made possible by The Center for Ethics in Action at the Univ. of New England.

### Sunday Afternoon: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

• **Old Age is a Foreign Country:** Produced by the University of New England, Kate Nelligan and Holly Haywood. With stark honesty, May Sarton speaks about how aging interferes with as well as inspires her art. (30 minutes)

• **Signs of Love: Honoring the Final Voyage:** Produced by the University of New England, Kate Nelligan and Holly Haywood. A companion video to *Old Age is a Foreign Country*, the film says many important things about dying and living and loving and grieving which desperately need to be heard. (25 minutes)

• **Q&A with Susan Sherman, editor of May Sarton Among the Usual Days: A Portrait**

• **Strangers in Good Company:** Academy Award winning director Cynthia Scott creates a tightly knit ensemble that no conventional drama can match, as eight old women stranded in the wilds of Quebec turn a crisis into a magical time of humor and sharing. (105 minutes)

Made possible by Barbara's Kitchen.

Thanks also to Gritty's, High Output, and Terra Firma for their support of the Festival.



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1995 POLARIS XLT LOW MILEAGE, ski skins, saddle bags, & cover. Asking \$4000/B.O. Call 639-4106.

94' ARTIC CAT THUNDER CAT RACING SLED, 200-hp, 40 seats, 1000ccs, cam quad. Clutch, digital read out. 54 miles. \$7000. (207)736-4191 (Mattawakeag).

ALLEGRO 21', 1990 Motor home- dual AC, furnace, shower, microwave, 33K. Quality and economy. \$20,000. (207)236-2578, Rockport.

ARTIC CAT 1995-ZRT 800, 196 stud, carbides, hyper bar, screen kit, clutch kit, V-force needs cover, spare belt, 3,600 miles. Excellent condition. \$5,000. 728-4293 Madawaska.

35'7" SAILBOAT 1/3 sail inventory, sleeps 4, galley, recent year Yammar diesel, new fuel tank, head, holding tank, propeller & shaft. \$29,900. 371-2163 GEORGETOWN.

CASCO BAY YACHT EXCHANGE, Quality pre-owned boats. Route 1 Freeport, Me. Phone (207)865-4016, Fax (207)865-0759.

## TRUCKS/VANS

1992 FORD BRONCO, EXCELLENT CONDITION. AC, Automatic, V8, tow package, 75K. Below wholesale: \$10,500/B.O. 772-0411.

CHEVY C10 PICKUP, 1986-1/2 ton, V-8, automatic, 106K miles, very good condition. \$1750. Tim (207)634-2673.

DODGE DAKOTA, 1989-4x4, V6, automatic, 3.9L, lift bed w/berglass cap. \$5900. (207)729-8385.

DODGE RAM 150, 1990-V8, automatic, I.E. 2/ton, blue, Excellent condition, very clean. \$6,000/B.O. 288-5291 or 827-2684.

GMC 1/2 TON, 1991-Standard, 8' bed w/cap. Great shape but high mileage. AM/FM, A/C, \$3900/B.O. 892-3749.

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BOUNDER 34' MOTOR HOME, 1995-Loaded, hydraulic levelers. Mint condition. \$52,500. 639-4697 or 622-0473.

SHASTA 5TH WHEEL, 1995-25', AC, awning, stereo, cassette, microwave, etc. condition. \$11,900. 498-2664, Caribou.

HARLEY FAT BOY, 1995-\$20,000 motorcycle winter special, \$15,500. Must see to appreciate. Dave 828-1658.

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## BOATS

16' DAYSAILER W/GALV. TRAILER. Excellent condition. Yellow/white fiberglass. Cuddy cabin sleeps-2. Roomy cockpit. \$2,800. 799-4305.

18' CATBOAT, 73 HERRSCHOFF AMERICA (Nowak/Williams). 91, 15hp. Mercury (low hours). Flag Sails(2), galvanized trailer. Excellent condition! \$6,500. (207)752-3414.

1988 FOUR WINNS 235 SUNDOWNER 350 cu. in. Cobra I/O/9.9hp. Yamaha kicker motor, that is plumbed into the main 50 gallon gas tank and is electric start, completely controlled from the captains chair. The cabin is immaculate with mood lighting, shore power, refrigerator, stove, sink, private bathroom, V-birth, mirrored and complete stereo system thru-out. Safety features are: a Halon fire extinguisher system, depth finder-fish finder with bottom alarm, ship to shore radio, remote control spot light, anchor in its own locker, bumpers with color coordinated slips, flare kit, life ring with the boats name on it and life jackets included. This boat sports a teak swim platform, ladder, top, back drop, side curtains, s.s. rod holders, gas grill, built in cooler/five will and a sporty red hull. The entire unit sits on a dual axle galvanized trailer with a custom mounted spare tire. More fishing related items are never seen salt water! Serious inquiries may call: Orlisfield, Maine. (207)43-6169 asking price: \$17,000. Must sell due to illness.

25' LOBSTER YACHT 170HP DIESEL. Too many amenities to list. Estate sale \$60,000. call 773-7549. Leave message.

29' COLUMBIA SLOOP. Full-keel, flush deck. Atomic 4 rebuilt, knot radar, auto-pilot, inflatable, B/O. 623-4830

31' PACEMAKER, SPORTFISHERMAN, 1966- Recent V8; 3rd owner. \$5,000. (207)748-0929.

35'7" SAILBOAT 1/3 sail inventory, sleeps 4, galley, recent year Yammar diesel, new fuel tank, head, holding tank, propeller & shaft. \$29,900. 371-2163 GEORGETOWN.

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## DATING SERVICES

ALTERNATIVE DATING GAY, BISEXUAL, HIV positive, Herpes, Transvestites, and other categories. Single or married persons-select your categories. PO Box 2402, Bangor, ME. 04402-2402. (207)947-2383. 24hrs.

COMPU DATE DATING SERVICE. PO Box 2402, Bangor, ME. 04402-2402. (207)947-2383. 24hrs.

ESCAPE THE RAT RACE. Earn what you're really worth. Free details. 1-800-572-4519 ext. 100.

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Single Adults Network Professional, Personal and Cost-effective Shop carefully... call the other services first, then 'GET CONNECTED'

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How about viewing our photo wall full of faces, faces, faces! 175 plus photos to check out!

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PHONE TEASER: ANNA: I love to tease men over the telephone with my sexy seductive voice. I'm 23 very pretty with long legs and sexy hot mouth. I love to have men call and beg me to say the things that drive them wild. Box #4992

SEXY BRUNETTE: I'm 28 with a great body 36-26-34. I have long slender legs that look great in a pair of lace high heels. I wear silky panties and sheer bras. I'm recently divorced and looking to have some fun again please call. Box #4598

SEXY BLONDE: Buffy (it is my real name) 40d-26-36 and just 19. My breasts are real, but my best asset are my million dollar legs. I love to watch men shave my legs while sitting in a warm bath. If you like bubble baths call and tell me why. Box #1551

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# personals

To respond to any personal ad, call  
**1-900-370-2041**  
(Calls cost \$1.99/min. Must be 18 or over. Touch tone phones only. Casco Bay Weekly 207-775-1234)

## DATING SERVICES

**Two For Lunch**  
*Dating Service*

Discover for yourself the intelligent, professional and respectable way to find the right person for you!  
**CALL LINDA!**  
Call 207-775-5799 For appt. Today

## WOMEN & MEN

1954 CLASSIC-"Widest" plates wanting to share bringing out the luster and travel on life's byways. Dents and dings OK. Permanent rust need not apply. #1311 (3/26)

DIFFERENT TAURUS-Cute SWF with wings on her fingers and bells on her shoes seeks SWM, 20-26, who enjoys the outdoors, art, and fun times. #1234 (3/19)

A RARE AND DIFFERENT GIRL- SWF, enjoys concert going, spending time with friends, and going for coffee. Seeking long-haired SWM, 20-25, for fun, friendship, and who knows. #1238 (3/19)

A SEEKER like Alice but, less naive, deliberate as the Cheshire cat but, less com-

ADVENTURE & ROMANCE. Cute & cheerful SWF, vegetarian seeks sincere & attractive N/S, S/DWM, 35-50 to explore Maine. Jazz, classical, oldies music. Cultural events or travel, hiking & camping. Environmentally aware. Open communication, quiet times, good books, cooking, exercise, friendship, fun, romance & possibly more. #1413

ASPIRE TO FIND SM who's compassionate, sensitive, good-humored, ready to explore the inner dimensions of a relationship. I'm a SWF, 38, 5'9", educated, artistic, thin, value equality, integrity, healthy well-being. #1233 (3/19)

CLASSY & VERY ATTRACTIVE DWF young 51, 5'4", 115#, educated, athletic, curvaceous, long dark hair, sweet, caring & loving. Seeks S/DWM, 48-62, intelligent, charming, handsome, sophisticated, physically fit and emotionally & financially stable for friendship. #1400

## WOMEN & MEN

COMEDANCE WITH ME. 5'3", 120#, 57y.o. Love to dance, walks on the beach, camping, dining out, travel, good times. Light drinker, smoker. Looking for warm and caring, 56-60 with sense of humor, financially secure, sound mind and body. Portland area. #1414

DISILLUSIONED WITH LOVE- Searching for an angel who can renew my faith in love, commitment, sincerity. You: 36-46, warm, gentle, honest, attractive, self-aware, N/S, N/D. Me: 39, warm, intense, attractive, active. #1265 (3/19)

DYING TO DANCE. Looking for dance partner for Maine Swing Dance Society dances. Great follower looking for dance leader. Love to jitterbug. No LTR- just dancing! #1365 (04/02)

FREE FINE AND 50-DF, 57", 150lbs, ISO good man for at least friendship and possibly more: maybe a movie, play, concert, auction, or gin & tonic. Willing to invest time if chemistry is right. Nervous? Me, too, but shall we try anyway? #1316 (3/26)

FREE SPIRIT ADVENTUROUS. ATTRACTIVE slim B/BR, DWF. Loves Gardening, sailing, walking, tennis, music & dancing. Seeking educated N/S gentleman 56-64 who is honest & fun-loving for friendship & sharing. #1369 (04/02)

GROWN-UP WANTED: Sexy, intelligent and fun DWF, 43, seeks N/S adult, 40-50, to share intimate talks, long walks and the gift of each day. Must enjoy children and have great sense of humor. #1412

HAPPY, LIVELY, SMART-SWFF, optimistic, liberal, artistic professional, enjoys swimming, walks, the outdoors, books, movies, theater, travel, people with character. Love friends and family, good conversation, ideas, waters and beaches, creative pursuits, staying fit, being adventurous. Seek bright, accomplished, secure, companionable male counterpart, 45-55. #1310 (3/26)

LAUGH WITH ME...at the absurdity of it all. We're in our 40's, juggling interesting work, children we love, a wonderful circle of friends (but they're all married), time for ourselves but, we still want to add one more thing—a meaningful relationship. I'm 5'6", 135, green sparkling eyes, attractive (especially when those eyes are smiling). I live south of Portland. Love to be outdoors—hiking, skiing, walking, biking. Yoga and meditation are important to me, you don't have to share that—just respect it. I'd like to meet a man who is confident but, not egotistical, positive in temperament but, with a keen integration of the complexity of life. Prefer first contact by PO Box. Your letter/photo gets mine. #1260 (3/19) Personal Advertiser #860, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104

LOOKING FOR A GOOD MAN- SWF, 37, 5'8", large build. Enjoys walks, movies, stock car racing, music. Desires S/DWM, 27-40, for friendship/relationship. Portland area. #1348 (4/2)

LOOKING FOR MR. WONDERFUL...not Mr. Hunt! But, it's okay if you are both. I love to laugh, cook, dance, read, camp, x-country ski, and more! I'm an attractive, educated, professional, fun loving DWF, 47, described by my friends as having a contagious sense of enthusiasm. Ultimate dream: For my soulmate to be my workmate. #1309 (3/26)

LOOKING TO MEET A GOOD MAN- SWF, 35, is looking to meet one really good man for friendship, maybe more. I'm worth the call! #1302 (3/26)

MOUNDS SEEKS ALMOND JOY for and indecorably delicious life. York county, 40's plus, N/S, brown-eyed, gleaming female knows how to find a man right and wants to meet you! #1390

NOTORIOUS BUG GIRL SEEKS FLY GUY for mutual munching, preening, buzzing about odd ponds. 22-35. Light smoker, drinker, good dancers O.K. No aphids or slugs. #1363 (04/02)

NOW CASTING FOR Up close and Personal, a new romantic comedy. Tall, brunette leading man sought. Must be versatile, 30ish, bright, funny, N/S, able to take direction. Your leading lady is a sassy, classy, full figured redhead. Leave number for audition. No stooges please. #1253 (3/19)

OLDER, WISER AND WILLING. Hey guys, I'm not slim, trim or plastic but real and experienced. At 61 I know what men love the most and what I desire for myself. You: willing to practice super safe sex, loving, caring, selfactualized/politically aware, middle aged, eager and capable of evolving into a meaningful alternative relationship with an extraordinary woman. Written inquiries a must, P.O. Box 3230, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTDOORSY, DOWN TO EARTH woman, 31, looking for physically fit male, 26-36 to join me for: Skiing, skating, cribbage, movies, theatre, dining out, music, conversation, cooking and friendship and romance. #1230 (3/19)

PASSIONATE PARTICIPANT OF LIFE, SWFF, 37, N/S, with outstanding SOH and eclectic interests, including the outdoors, travel, healing arts, seeks higher ground with man of strength, balance, courage of a spiritual warrior, and ability to laugh during inclement weather. I am lightning. You are thunder. #1318 (3/26)

PLEASE, LET ME BE YOUR puppy dog! Off-beat professional, responsible with rock-n-roll attitude, seeking same. Me: Attractive, 25. You: Intelligent, open ideas, fun. #1288 (3/26)

TICKLE ME FUNNYBONE...cook for me, rub the small of my back, and this very attractive, playful and affectionate DWF will respond in kind and then some! If you're a handsome, fit, N/S, S/DWM, 38-48, 5'11", possessing charm, intelligence, emotional availability and financial stability, then talk to me—I'm listening. #1352 (3/19)

TIERED OF BEING WITH A TYPICAL MALE. Proven wrong. Me: SWF, 22, 5'4", B/BR, attractive, st. heavy, genuine, romantic, bubbly, hugs and kisses, alternative and classic rock, concerts, dining, pool, movies, bands, hanging out with friends, beach, walking, adventurous. You: Financially and emotionally secure, SWM, 23-30, funny, honest, cute, hair, good personality, communication, N/S, no cats, possible LTR. #1294 (3/26)

WALKING MY TALK (often). Are you on a similar path? This creative traveler in her fifties, seeks laughter, play and gently meeting on our edge. #1398

WANTED! MR. RIGHT: Pretty young grandmother, 39, DWF, is looking for that very special man to share her life with. Must possess many old-fashioned values. Walking hand-in-hand on the beach, quiet comfortable nights at home. Must also be true romantic, living in or around York county. #1251 (3/19)

WOODSTOCKS IN WINTER, SAILBOATS IN SUMMER, and travel, travel. Attractive, fit, bright, N/S, DWF, 50, wants to give up city life and move back to small coastal town. Looking for N/S man of integrity who loves sailing and travelling, and maybe likes tennis and hiking. Wit and wisdom also welcome. #1392

LOOKING FOR A GOOD MAN- SWF, 37, 5'8", large build. Enjoys walks, movies, stock car racing, music. Desires S/DWM, 27-40, for friendship/relationship. Portland area. #1348 (4/2)

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WANTED! MR. RIGHT: Pretty young grandmother, 39, DWF, is looking for that very special man to share her life with. Must possess many old-fashioned values. Walking hand-in-hand on the beach, quiet comfortable nights at home. Must also be true romantic, living in or around York county. #1251 (3/19)

WOODSTOCKS IN WINTER, SAILBOATS IN SUMMER, and travel, travel. Attractive, fit, bright, N/S, DWF, 50, wants to give up city life and move back to small coastal town. Looking for N/S man of integrity who loves sailing and travelling, and maybe likes tennis and hiking. Wit and wisdom also welcome. #1392

WOMEN & MEN

PROFESSIONAL SPIRITUAL DWF, 41, enjoys the outdoors, communicating over dinner, football, and laughter. ISO sharing, caring, spontaneous, social, N/S man. #1346 (4/2)

RARE AND UNIQUE. Very attractive 40yr. DWF with much to offer seeks good looking emotionally and financially secure man with SOH. #1388

SENTIMENTAL BRUNETTE DWF, 43, 5'10", N/S, N/D, outdoorsy, slim, SOH, DTE, sincere, caring, creative, and comfortable with self seeks tall, good person, kind soul, nice smile. #1235 (3/26)

SHORT AND SWEET. Funny, creative, cuddly, 5'2", DWF, 51, seeks male playmate, soulmate. S/DWM, 40's-60's to share movies, dinners, great conversation. N/S, N/D, occasional dinners. Looks unimportant. #1395

SLEEPLESS IN WATERVILLE- SWF seeking nice gentleman, over 60, like dancing, cribbage, travel, golf, etc. Seeking someone who enjoys same. I'm 5'8", reddish blonde, green eyes, 170. Let's meet and talk. #1267 (3/19)

SPIRITED, VERY ATTRACTIVE professional woman, 41, who would prefer being a homemaker, values family, friends, making a positive effect on the world, honesty, laughter, respect. Wants enthusiastic, humorous, giving man who has time and money for travel, fun, and the mutual desire to spoil each other. #1304 (3/26)

SWF, 35, FAMILY ORIENTED. Honest, enjoys hiking and traveling. Has enjoyable 8yr. old. Seeks SWM, mid-30's for lasting relationship. Must be trustworthy, honest and sincere. #1420

SWF, 35, HONEST, OUTGOING, many interests, seeks mature, family-oriented male, N/S, for outdoor fun and friendship. #1357 (4/2)

TALL, WILLOWY SWF, 37, with strong roots, good program ISO educated, articulate, charming, funny, courageous S/DWM, 35-50, who will show up and tell the truth. I'll try to do the same. #1327 (3/26)

LOOKING FOR A GOOD MAN- SWF, 37, 5'8", large build. Enjoys walks, movies, stock car racing, music. Desires S/DWM, 27-40, for friendship/relationship. Portland area. #1348 (4/2)

LOOKING FOR MR. WONDERFUL...not Mr. Hunt! But, it's okay if you are both. I love to laugh, cook, dance, read, camp, x-country ski, and more! I'm an attractive, educated, professional, fun loving DWF, 47, described by my friends as having a contagious sense of enthusiasm. Ultimate dream: For my soulmate to be my workmate. #1309 (3/26)

LOOKING TO MEET A GOOD MAN- SWF, 35, is looking to meet one really good man for friendship, maybe more. I'm worth the call! #1302 (3/26)

MOUNDS SEEKS ALMOND JOY for and indecorably delicious life. York county, 40's plus, N/S, brown-eyed, gleaming female knows how to find a man right and wants to meet you! #1390

NOTORIOUS BUG GIRL SEEKS FLY GUY for mutual munching, preening, buzzing about odd ponds. 22-35. Light smoker, drinker, good dancers O.K. No aphids or slugs. #1363 (04/02)

NOW CASTING FOR Up close and Personal, a new romantic comedy. Tall, brunette leading man sought. Must be versatile, 30ish, bright, funny, N/S, able to take direction. Your leading lady is a sassy, classy, full figured redhead. Leave number for audition. No stooges please. #1253 (3/19)

OLDER, WISER AND WILLING. Hey guys, I'm not slim, trim or plastic but real and experienced. At 61 I know what men love the most and what I desire for myself. You: willing to practice super safe sex, loving, caring, selfactualized/politically aware, middle aged, eager and capable of evolving into a meaningful alternative relationship with an extraordinary woman. Written inquiries a must, P.O. Box 3230, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTDOORSY, DOWN TO EARTH woman, 31, looking for physically fit male, 26-36 to join me for: Skiing, skating, cribbage, movies, theatre, dining out, music, conversation, cooking and friendship and romance. #1230 (3/19)

PASSIONATE PARTICIPANT OF LIFE, SWFF, 37, N/S, with outstanding SOH and eclectic interests, including the outdoors, travel, healing arts, seeks higher ground with man of strength, balance, courage of a spiritual warrior, and ability to laugh during inclement weather. I am lightning. You are thunder. #1318 (3/26)

PLEASE, LET ME BE YOUR puppy dog! Off-beat professional, responsible with rock-n-roll attitude, seeking same. Me: Attractive, 25. You: Intelligent, open ideas, fun. #1288 (3/26)

TICKLE ME FUNNYBONE...cook for me, rub the small of my back, and this very attractive, playful and affectionate DWF will respond in kind and then some! If you're a handsome, fit, N/S, S/DWM, 38-48, 5'11", possessing charm, intelligence, emotional availability and financial stability, then talk to me—I'm listening. #1352 (3/19)

TIERED OF BEING WITH A TYPICAL MALE. Proven wrong. Me: SWF, 22, 5'4", B/BR, attractive, st. heavy, genuine, romantic, bubbly, hugs and kisses, alternative and classic rock, concerts, dining, pool, movies, bands, hanging out with friends, beach, walking, adventurous. You: Financially and emotionally secure, SWM, 23-30, funny, honest, cute, hair, good personality, communication, N/S, no cats, possible LTR. #1294 (3/26)

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WOMEN & MEN

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## MEN & WOMEN

"ARE YOU OUT THERE?" A S/DWF 28-40Y.O. Lives in Greater Portland, employed, has a passion for dining, dancing, life. N/S, N/D, enjoys indoor & outdoor activities. Romantic, sensual. Bonus point for brunettes, Italian or Greek gals, tall & slim. I'm looking to find you! #1365 (04/02)

1 + 1 = 3 OR MORE? OK, so math may not be my strong point but, if you're looking for someone who is kind, loving, romantic, and wants to start a family, my math may make more sense. I'm 41, 6', 160lbs, B/BL, bearded, healthy, outdoorsy, bright, interesting, and available. #1359 (4/2)

28Y.O. GRADUATE STUDENT N/S tired of heavy relationships seeking something light and fun, 6', athletic, quiet. Prefer athletes 20-35. #1389

A CARPENTER AND A DOCTOR, seeking a cook, a thief, a wife and a lover for companionship and possible LTR to share the divine and decadent diversity of life on earth. Early 30's, tall, handsome, intelligent, wordy, new to Maine, hoping to find very attractive, slim, adventurous, culturally enthusiastic woman who drinks real beer and maybe a single-malt or two. #1409

ALOT TO OFFER, BUT FINDING IT HARD TO meet new people? Well me too! Tall, handsome, easygoing SWM, 31, enjoys SOH, sports, dancing, dining, the outdoors, walks, and my job. Seek someone like myself who hasn't been around, but is fun to be around. #1405

ATTRACTIVE PROFESSIONAL 46, 6'2", 190#, great shape. Likes dining, dancing, outdoor activities, traveling. Looking for S/D SWM, attractive female 40-45 with similar interest. N/S. #1385

LOVEL